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READY FOR BATTLE



Ange Postecoglou has his eyes firmly set on striking partners Scott McDonald (left) and Alex Brosque (right) to score the goals for his U20s squad.

By Mark Stavroulakis

The time is almost amongst our young Aussie U20 troops as the United Arab Emirates has been targeted for the up and coming World Cup on 27th of November.

Coach Ange Postecoglou and his men recently enjoyed a four-nation tournament in South Korea and a friendly hit-out against the Japanese.

Preparation is the key and after Postecoglou's failed attempt during the last U17's World Cup who were knocked out during the group stages in Finland, Ange has been more cautious with these friendly hit-outs.

Two losses to Colombia and Slovakia while a draw against the South Koreans and finally a win against the Japanese

summed up the Australian program.

The former South Melbourne coach was delighted especially with his team's one-nil victory over a tough Japanese side and praised his two gun strikers.

"Alex Brosque played very well against the Japanese and caused a lot of problems for their side. He and Scott McDonald did really well and could have scored a goal a piece. At the end of the day the win was good for the players confidence. For me though, we need to be improving all the time and the Japanese game was a little bit of an improvement on the previous game as was the case with the game before", Postecoglou stated.

Ange was extremely impressed with the four nations tournament and said

that it would set-up the side for the better come the U20's tournament.

"The important thing is we are improving and there is no doubt we have played four very good teams and the five sides involved in firstly the tournament in Korea and then Japan, the one that will improve the most of us, as we've had the least time together. We are starting to gel as a unit, although there is still a lot of work to be done".

Having reached Australian soil since last Friday, the squad has organized friendly games against the Malaysian U23 squad (Played Monday), and a game against a Queensland select side (This Friday) before departing to the UAE on the 24th of November.

Australia have a tough schedule ahead of them at the

World Cup with their first match against the Czech Republic, then a tricky Canadian side before playing out their final group match against the tough and favourites to win the World Cup, Brazil.

Based mostly of National League players, Postecoglou will be looking towards the likes of skipper McDonald, midfield star Carl Valeri, striker Alex Brosque and defenders David Tarka and Alex Wilkinson in guiding the side through.

Speculation has grown more and more that if the Australian coach fails to gain winning results in the UAE then the axe could fall?

Only time will tell on that verdict.

The Young Socceroos likely starting 11 for the first World Cup match is as follows: Nathan Coe — Steve Panielidis — David Tarka — Alex Wilkinson — Spase Dilevski — Carl Valeri — Massimo Muroccca — Anthony Danze — Vince Lia — Alex Brosque — Scott McDonald.

CONTENDERS OR PRETENDERS?

The Parramatta Power juggernaut came crashing to reality last week after suffering a devastating three-one away loss to second from the bottom side Wollongong Wolves at WIN Stadium.

Two goals from Michael Hawrysiuk and a goal from

Nahuel Arrarte saw John Turner's side skid through their highly fancied opponents in fine style that claimed their first victory at home.

Surely the biggest shock of the season, Parramatta plunged back to earth with a lesson that could ultimately be a wake up call for the

newly assembled and highly-paid squad.

Power coach Nick Theo, once the Wollongong Wolves coach, was tested till the end as his counterpart John Turner won the night's proceedings in terms of tactics.

Read on page 6 for the entire match report.



"Thanks for the three points Nick — do come again" — Power coach Nick Theo shown congratulating Wolves coach John Turner after their shock three-one loss.

What's Inside ABSW This Week:

- Aussies Abroad is back better than ever (Page 2)
 - Bush Hush meetings held for next year's APL (Page 11)
 - Northern Spirit special on coach Lawrie McKenna and star players Stewart Petrie and Dylan Macallister (Page 13)
 - Striking it rich with the AIS
- Plus all Round 9 National League action with reports and statistics on pages 6-7-8-15 and 19. Don't Forget to check out this week's World Pages (27-30) with an in-depth look at last weekend's crucial Euro 2004 qualifiers.

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Full details please refer to Page 5.

Australia's 1974 World Cup Reunion Dinner
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Special

Australia's 1973 World Cup Squad

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aussiesabroad

BY DANIEL KUZIW

Colin Lee has paid tribute to the steadfastness of midfielder Steve Corica, who has been challenged to reclaim his regular first-team place.

Australia international Corica has made just 12 appearances for Walsall so far but has started the last two matches after being named among the substitutes for the previous two.

Lee said: "Steve Corica is one who's been waiting and waiting for his chance to get back in."

"So I've told him when he does get that chance he should express himself, put everything into his game and not let the game pass him by."

"He's a good player but he's suffered from a lack of form and also from certain team selections by myself. But he's not let me down at all."

♦♦♦♦

Burnley have handed a trial to winger Dave Carney, as manager Stan Ternent looks to bolster his squad.

The former Everton trainee featured in Burnley's reserve team match against Sheffield United - a game which The Clarets lost 4-3.

Carney has also been on trial north of the border with Dunfermline this season, and the Australian Under-21 international is hopeful of finding himself a new home.



David Carney: Has been handed a trial by Burnley.

♦♦♦♦

Hearts' Patrick Kisnorbo is on course to be fit for the Edinburgh derby against Hibs a week on Sunday.

Australian defender Kisnorbo and midfielder Simmons have both been struggling with foot injuries, but are set to be in contention for the Tynecastle showdown.

Jambos head coach Craig Levein told the Edinburgh Evening News: "Patrick's x-ray has shown there is no break, which is good news, although he still has stud marks in the top of his foot."

"There was a lot of swelling and the x-rays were really more of a precautionary thing but they seem to be clear, he is feeling better himself and I expect him back for the derby."

♦♦♦♦

Aussie Luke Wilkshire is off the mark with a goal - and his Bristol City team-mates believe that will spur the young midfielder to new heights this season.

The former Middlesbrough player, signed for £250,000 as a replacement for Scott Murray, finally scored his first goal for the club in Sunday's 5-2 FA Cup victory at Bradford Park Avenue.

It capped a wholehearted display from the Australian and gave Danny Wilson's men a welcome boost ahead of Saturday's important tussle with high-flying Brighton.

Defender Matthew Hill said: "It was nice that Luke got on the scoresheet at last. It's been coming because he has been banging them in for fun in training."

"It was also nice to see the lads get a few goals because we have been having a few problems hitting the target in recent games. And it was great for Lee Matthews and Kevin Amankwaah to score - that will do them a power of good."

Wilson was also full of praise for Wilkshire. "Luke has proved he can get into good positions to cause a nuisance to defences and, hopefully, he can go on from this now," said the Ashton Gate boss.

"I'm not sure how he hadn't managed to score until Sunday and I'm sure he doesn't either because he has been desperately unlucky on occasions."

♦♦♦♦

Mark Viduka has blasted former Leeds United boss Peter Reid saying that he was made as a scapegoat for the team's poor displays, and says that he has no thoughts of leaving Elland Road.

Reid had a strained relationship with Viduka but the former Celtic man insists he did not deserve to be dropped from the side for the 6-1 mauling by Pompey at Fratton Park.

"You have to understand people react differently to different situations," Viduka told The Australian.

"I felt I didn't deserve to be dropped from the team to play Portsmouth."

"I still haven't been told why. I suppose looking back, he (Reid) saw me as the easiest target to blame for a string of bad results."

"Reid first dropped me from the team because someone had told him I was late for training but that wasn't the case."

"In fact I turned up early, 90 minutes before the scheduled start to get treatment from the club physio for a lower back problem."

"The reason I wasn't out on the training ground with everyone else at the time was because I was still undergoing some heat treatment."

"I told one of Reid's assistants beforehand, but that message was never passed on."

Caretaker boss Eddie Gray has now smoothed things over with the Australian international

- who insists he has been as hurt as anyone to see Leeds' fall from grace.

Viduka also insisted that he did not want to leave the club and would not be going unless the cash-strapped West Yorkshire side decided they had to sell him.

"To tell you the truth, I'm happy at Leeds. I first joined the club for the sole purpose to help the club win trophies."

"Of course, I'm disappointed after what we achieved in my first season when we got to the Champions League semi-finals."

"But the season is still early and deep down I know we're good enough to get out of the cellar."

"I've got two-and-a-half years to run on my contract and I've got no plans at this stage to leave unless the club wants to sell me."

♦♦♦♦

Still on Leeds United, their desperation to hide the true extent of their financial crisis led Chairman John McKenzie to suggest a bizarre scheme that would artificially inflate the amount of money the club received from Harry Kewell's transfer to Liverpool.

Britain's Sportsmail can reveal that Professor McKenzie was so keen to present the City with a rosy picture of the club's earnings from the sale of one of their most valuable assets that he tried to persuade Kewell's representatives Bernie Mandic to include their client's £2million signing - on bonus from Liverpool in the size of the transfer fee.

Mandic said to Sportsmail: "This was one of the suggestions made by Professor McKenzie during the finalising of Harry Kewell's transfer to Liverpool as a way of making the deal look better for Leeds United to the City."

"We listened to all of the proposals but, given the potential consequences for Harry Kewell, we declined absolutely."

♦♦♦♦

Current U23 Australian international Brett Holman yet again shined last week for Dutch second division side Excelsior when he scored a terrific goal in their two-one loss to Jason Culina's former club De Graafschap.

Holman, who was not included in the U20's squad bound for the UAE, has been playing rather well and from close source could start training with club Feyenoord after the new year.

Currently on-loan to sister club Excelsior, Feyenoord have been monitoring the success of the former NSWIS graduate.

♦♦♦♦

Empolis' Primavera Aussie Estars Nicholas Stavroulakis and Frank Lagana will again touchdown on Aussie soil on the 22nd of December just in time for the Christmas and New Years break.



The pair have been doing rather well over in Italy but from reports can't wait to visit friends and family.

ABSW will cover an in-depth interview on the pair upon their holidays in Oz.

It's however been one frustrating year for fellow Aussie first grader and Soccerroo Vince Grella.

The former Carlton ace has been playing regularly for the



Aussie U23 star Brett Holman scored and starred again for Dutch side Excelsior last week.

side but Empoli currently sits at the foot of the Serie A table - not a good sign for the club.

Italy's second round matches will prove rather vital for the club if they have any intentions of staying in Italy's top flight.

♦♦♦♦

Soccerroo skipper Paul Okon has been a keen regular in Vicenza's first team squad since his move from troubled English Premier League club Leeds United.

Okon took part in last week's nil-all draw against Genoa and from newspaper reports played rather well.

Vicenza are unfortunately battling at the foot of the Serie B ladder and need to improve their placing's in the next few weeks.

♦♦♦♦

Australian Soccerroo's 'spider' Zeljko Kalac suffered a major setback two weeks ago when the Perugia keeper



Zeljko Kalac will be out for a month after an injury sustained on his thigh. 'Spider' only last four minutes before limping off against Lecce.

sustained a thigh injury during the Serie A draw against Lecce.

The Australian limped out of action after only four minutes and medical tests have subsequently revealed the extent of the problem to his right thigh.

Kalac has been doing wonders under the sticks at Perugia but this setback has sidelined him for at least a month.

Still after the Soccerroos number one spot, Kalac still believes he can mastermind Mark Schwarzer as Australia's numero uno keeper.

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NSL THEN OVERSEAS FARINA

Australia coach Frank Farina has urged the country's best young players not to leave for Europe's leagues too young.

"It's not the fault of the system that our results have dropped off, it's the fault of what happens to players when they leave that system," Farina told the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

"The kids coming out of the institutes, they should all be playing a couple of years in the national league before they even think about going overseas."

"I can count on one hand the players in my [Socceroos] squad who bypassed the NSL. When you look at Harry



Farina believes that current U20 stars Nathan Coe (left) & Carl Valeri (right) have gone backwards with Italian glamour club Inter Milan.

Kewell, for instance, you're looking at a once-in-a-generation player. "If you're going to make it, to me it's pretty obvious you need a grounding in the NSL first. But these kids have got parents and agents telling them they should go, and that's wrong."

"We've been talking about it for a few years, but obviously we haven't got the message across. "It's got to start somewhere, we've got to discourage kids from going at an early age."

"The idea of picking only kids in the NSL for the under-17s and under-20s has a lot of merit. You'd get no argument from me if we implemented that policy. "To be honest, I don't know we'd lose out on anything. I mean, look at kids like [Carl] Valeri, [Nathan] Coe, and [Scott] McDonald who are in the under-20s at the moment. They showed at lot of promise when they were 17 or 18, but if anything they've gone backwards since then. "They're over in Europe playing reserve or youth team football - tell me how that's improving their game."

The Inter pair have played in the side's Primavera squad but have found it tough to crack a permanent spot in the side.

Valeri, former U17's captain is a recognized midfielder while Coe, ex-Brisbane Strikers star is known as a goalkeeper.

McDonald, current Young Socceroos skipper has been through the highs and lows of European football and is currently playing his trade for English side Wimbledon.

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'74 Roos Honoured

By Peter Damalas

The 30th Anniversary of Australia's qualification for their one and only World Cup appearance took place in grand fashion at Le Montage in Sydney last Thursday night.

The event, which was sponsored by the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, honoured the Socceroos from that era as the soccer community gathered to relive past memories and talk about where the game is headed in the twenty first century.

Hosted by the Head of Sport at SBS, Les Murray, and rugby league personality, Mario Fenech, the night included auctions with the proceeds donated to cardiac research.

A great deal of work was put in to make the evening a success, and the timing was finalised down to a tee.

At one stage, the entire congrega-



1974 coach Rale Rasic was one of the main organizers in last week's monumental dinner.

tion cheered at the exact moment when Socceroo Jim Mackay scored against South Korea in the World Cup qualifier in Hong Kong thirty years ago.

Veteran coach, Rale Rasic, presented the squad with replica World Cup trophies, and spoke about the achievement of playing against the world's elite in West Germany.

He set the tone for the evening when he stated that "it is great to have everyone involved in soccer in the one place to share a pleasant evening and not worry about the negatives. This should be the beginning of a better future for the game."

And while nostalgia and charity took up much of the night, there was a feeling that most people in the room wanted to see another Socceroos team reach the 'holy grail', and a return to Germany in 2006.

Credit to Rale Rasic and his team for putting together a wonderful evening.

Young Roos End Preparations With A Win

The Young Socceroos scored a 1-0 victory over Japan in a u-20 friendly international played in Tokyo last week ending their preparations in Asia.

The Australians secured victory thanks to a 48th minute penalty scored by captain Scott McDonald, in what was their final international prior to the 2003 FIFA World Youth Championship which commences later this month.

The only goal of the game came three minutes after half-time when McDonald was upended in the penalty area before converting the spot kick comfortably.

Australia once again started the game strongly and following a goalmouth scramble, had the ball in the back of the net through McDonald after just ten minutes, however the goal was disallowed after the referee ruled that the Japanese goalkeeper had been fouled.

Two minutes later, Alex Brosque had an effort from an acute angle that hit the side netting and then the Japanese keeper did well to intercept a great ball from Carl Valeri that had Jobe Wheelhouse almost through on goal.

The Japanese then lifted their intensity having several shots on goal with one attempt from outside the box narrowly clearing the crossbar.

McDonald could have opened the scoring in the 27th minute, when the Japanese keeper missed the ball, but the captain's header cleared the goal.

Coe made his first real save in the 37th minute, denying the Japanese after a quickly taken free kick.

Japan should have taken the lead a minute after the break when they missed an opportunity from the six-yard line, and were made to pay for that miss two minutes later with McDonald's penalty success.

Japan, urged on by a healthy crowd in Tokyo's National Stadium, continued to push forward in search of an equaliser and Coe made a great save to deny the home side from a free kick, while Tarka was forced to clear off the line in the 73rd minute to ensure the Young Socceroos kept a second consecutive clean sheet.

The squad returned to Sydney last Friday and will remain in camp for ten days - playing two training games in the process - before departing for the United Arab Emirates.

The U20's played out a friendly hit-out against the Malaysian U23s at Parklea last Monday but due to deadlines ABSW were unable to print the result.

The full itinerary is as follows:

Monday 17 November (8pm) - Training game v Malaysia U-23s Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood, Sydney (Soccer NSW)

Tuesday 18 November - Squad re-locates to Brisbane

Friday 21 November (7pm) - Training game v Queensland Select Perry Park, Mayne, Brisbane (Match details to be confirmed)

Monday 24 November - Squad departs Australia for the 2003 FIFA World Youth Championship

Friday 28 November (8.30pm) - Australia v Czech Republic, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (FIFA World Youth Championship)

Monday 1 December (5.45pm) - Australia v Canada, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (FIFA World Youth Championship)

Thursday 4 December (5.45pm) - Australia v Brazil, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (FIFA World Youth Championship) (N.B. all times are local time)

The 24-team tournament will be held between November 27 - December 19 with Australia's Group (Group C) to be played entirely in the Northern city of Dubai.



Scott McDonald scored the only goal in the U20's win over Japan last week.

DYLAN ON AN OLYROO MISSION

By Peter Damalas

Northern Spirit striker Dylan Macallister is on a mission to be selected in the Under 23s squad for next year's Olympic Games in Athens.

The twenty one year old has begun the season brightly, scoring four goals in seven appearances for the club, sitting proudly in third position behind Parramatta and Perth, before the round 9 fixtures were completed.

Macallister has made an important contribution to the goals scored tally for the Spirit, who have the second best figures in the league, only three behind the explosive Power outfit.

His partnership with Scotsman, Stewart Petrie, which has so far procured nine goals, has been one of the highlights of the NSL season.

"I'm happy with my per-

formance so far I've started strongly and the team is doing well" Macallister said. All augurs well for an impressive campaign, considering he spent most of the 2002-03 season dealing with contractual concerns in Europe and overcoming injury problems when he returned to Australia.

The time that he spent away from the game during the off season has allowed him to evaluate his objectives.

And his success in front of goal has not gone unnoticed by Olyroos coach, Frank Farina. The clearest indication that Macallister may be in line for a berth in the

United, Parramatta Power and South Melbourne, three teams with equally impressive defensive records in the National Soccer League.

But Macallister is confident that the Spirit have what it takes to compete well, after an uncertain start to the campaign.

"We have the same team as last year and we are playing exciting football.

There were some problems with wages and some people, including myself, were not too happy, but we have been given assurances from the club and we are now down to business" he said.

"Selection for the Olyroos

is definitely at the back of my mind. All I need to do is concentrate on playing well week to week. The letter I received stated that Farina has a priority to pick players who are playing regularly for their club teams."

Another breakthrough has been the possibility that Farina and Postecoglou will only select home based players for future youth tournaments, such as the Under 17 and Under 20 World Championships.

In this regard, Macallister has a distinct advantage over some of the strikers in contention who are plying their trade in Europe. Young Socceroos captain, Scott McDonald, Brett Holman and Josh Kennedy loom as the players most likely to figure as competition for Macallister and other local based players.

But Macallister is happy playing with other young players for Spirit at Pittwater



Dylan Macallister shown in the Olyroo colours last year - something the striker wants to wear once more in Athens next year.

Park. "Most of the team are under twenty and they are playing every week against men. I am a local in the northern beaches and I find that Pittwater Park has a better atmosphere because it is more confined than North Sydney. The surface is no longer a concern" he said.

When asked about objectives, Macallister stated that a finish out of the top six would be "very disappointing." As for his goalscoring exploits, he indicated that his current ratio of four goals every seven games would suffice indeed.

SPIRIT WILL BE THERE — McKINNA



Northern Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna is hopeful that his side will fair in the new APL next season.

By Luke Doherty

The new Australian Premier League is just around the corner and with the possibility that just three teams from Sydney will make it into the new league, Northern Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna has revealed that the Spirit want to be part of it.

The new league is the way forward for the game in Australia - there is no doubting that - but what's needed is more than a plan.

It's one thing to over haul the game in Australia in the hope of creating a ground swell of support but it's more important that the intricacies of the new league be thought about carefully.

The APL is meant to be a smaller 10-team league. The dumping of three teams from the current crop is supposed

to allow sides that do survive the cut, to pay players more in the hope that they will stop going overseas.

But while McKinna is a huge fan of the new set up, he believes that it will be the professionalism of the APL that determines whether players stay or not, and not the amount of money available for wages.

"Two years ago when we had the big money ... even that didn't keep them here so I don't think that's a factor for the new season," said McKinna, who was last season's coach of the year.

"The guys who have left - most of them haven't made the overseas squads and aren't getting a game."

Since coming from Scotland in 1986, McKinna has been a huge advocate for Australian soccer. Coming from a European soccer background and having played 93 NSL games himself, he has never seen the point of rubbishing the game in Australia - always looking for a positive rather than a negative.

But he hopes that when the APL does come in, that it will be a package deal of media coverage, crowds and cameras.

"It will be a continuation of business next year but hopefully we will have TV and media coverage put in place because there are a lot of good players in this league."

"But they need a package deal - crowd and cameras."

Australian soccer fans are looking for a league where they can be proud to buy a ticket to the game. But the professionalism is here

already - it just needs to be dressed up a little.

It's like anything in life. If you had the choice of a car that's been up on blocks in the front yard or a Porsche, you know which one you are going to choose and McKinna knows how much appearance is hurting -the NSL at the moment.

"Pittwater needs another stand because it does look unprofessional when you only have one stand and one camera."

"Look at our game against Perth Glory (5-3) - if you put Old Trafford in the background then it looks magic."

The Spirit is still a new club in the scheme of things. But they do have the right set up which should allow them to be a force in the new APL.

Despite not having the money to dip into the transfer market when the window opens in January, McKinna said that he has the utmost confidence in the squad he has now and the squad he will take into the APL.

"We have had meetings with Antonio Gelonesi and he is keen as mustard to get us in there."

"The crowds are getting bigger and the atmosphere is improving but Antonio is keen to get it happening."

"We're never going to get 16,000 people to games again but 6000 would be great."

Even with Alex Wilkinson, Jonathan Richter and Mark Milligan away with the national U/20 team and evergreen defender Alex Tobin out for another three weeks the former Kilmarnock player isn't worried.

They have managed to win three games in a row and climb to third on the NSL ladder, simply by bringing in young players to cover the gaps.

"We are the only team with that amount of players in the U/20's."

"After that happened we were really skinny, but Matt Osman stepped up. Against Auckland no one stood out but Ozzy was great."

"Although we are losing three good players it gives others a chance."

"We told them at training that this is your time to come in and take a jersey. We told them you're not just keeping it warm ... that's not the way we operate. You have to come in and fight for it and then fight to keep it."

It's a McKinna adage - that you must look forward - and so he said that a win over Olympic this weekend should set them up to be the first team to beat Parramatta the week after.

UNSW



SOCCER CLUB

Enters Women's Super League & Girl's Youth League in 2004

The University of New South Wales following premierships in Women's State League First Grade and U/21's in 2003, have been promoted to Soccer NSW Women's Super League in 2004. UNSW Women's Super League is to be coached by Head Women's Coach, Dez Marton. All trials to be held at David Phillips Fields, Cnr Banks and Gwea Ave, Daceyville.

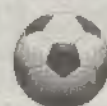
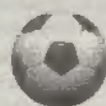
Tuesday 25th November 2003	- 1st Grade & Under 21's	7.30pm to 9.30pm
Sunday 30th November 2003	- 1st Grade & Under 21's	9.00am to 11am
Tuesday 2nd December 2003	- 1st Grade & Under 21's	7.30pm to 9.30pm
Sunday 7th December 2003	- 1st Grade & Under 21's	9.00am to 11am

You will need:-

soccer equipment (boots, shinpads, etc), Lots of water and sunscreen.

As part of UNSW's youth development policy, UNSW Girls Youth League (U/12's, U/14's and U/16's) has been entered in 2004, players required.

For further information on Women's Super League or Girl's Youth League please contact Troy Cook, President, on 0412 069 068 or troy.cook@optusnet.com.au



ABSW/True Blue Collectables Competition

Win a HUGE 1000mm x 700mm fully framed limited edition print that has been personally signed by Superstar Harry Kewell. The greatest Soccer player Australia has ever produced, Harry Kewell has been captured in full flight. A Limited Edition of only 2000 worldwide, each has a very large autograph that has been personally signed by Harry. RRP \$400

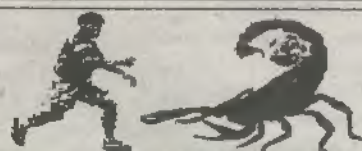
Answer these three simple questions correctly to go into the draw:

- 1) What State was Harry Kewell born in?
- 2) How many goals did the Socceroos score when they beat England in Feb 2003?
- 3) What number does Harry Kewell wear for Liverpool?

To enter, answer the above questions and then post your Competition Coupon to:

ABSW-True Blue Collectables Competition. 1-9 Glebe Point Road, GLEBE. NSW. 2037.

NAME:
ADDRESS:
SUBURB: State: Postcode:
Brought to you by ABSW and "True Blue Collectables" Good Luck



STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Trials 2004 Season

First Grade and Under 20's

Sundays 16th, 23rd, 30th November and 7th December
Time: 10am

at
Mt Druitt Town Centre
Ralf Place, Mt Druitt

For any other information phone
Joe Belcastro 0418 447138
Mario Bezzina 0413 632 727
or Stan Ackerley 0409 304 900



**Hurstville City Minotaurs
Soccer Club Inc.**

SUPER LEAGUE TRIALS FOR 2004

First Grade and Reserve Grade (U20)
Commence Wednesday 26th November 2003
at **Beverly Hills Park**
Vanessa St, Beverly Hills — 7pm

NOTE: A special TRIAL for our "U12's Development Squad". The 2005 U13's Youth Squad.
All boys born 1992 please come and trial for this elite team/starting Tuesday 25th November — 6pm at **Beverly Hills Park**, Vanessa St.
Some Positions still available for our Division One Youth especially defenders for our U15's.

For more information please ring
Peter Sarikakis (02) 9553 1925
(M) 0412 0412 407 830

**SUPER
LEAGUE**

**STANMORE
HAWKS**
1st Grade
Under 20's



TRIALS FOR 2004



**Coaching Staff —
Sotos Mavros & John Doyle**

TRIALS

**For Both
1st Grade
& Under 20's on
Thursdays &
Sundays**

**THURSDAYS
6.30PM Sharp
20/11, 27/11, 4/12**

**SUNDAYS
9.00AM Sharp
23/11, 30/11 7/12**

VENUE: Tempe Reserve, Tempe

U20 COACH WANTED

For More Information Contact:
Mavros 0417 653 979 / 9560 8999



**CAMDEN SOCCER CLUB
STATE LEAGUE TRIALS**

SEASON 2004

First Grade & Under 20

Tuesday Nights — 18.11.03; 25.11.03;
2.12.03; 9.12.03

Arrive by 6.45pm for 7.00pm start
Place — Ron Dine Memorial Reserve
Cowper Drive, South Camden

For more details please contact
Head Coach, Eddie Briscoe

**0413 444 054, or
Rick Carroll Manager Representative Teams
0418 611 515 or 9824 8036**



National Soccer League



Newcastle United

0



Sydney United

0

**By Panos
Tagaroulas**

Newcastle United's winless streak was extended to four matches after Sydney United held the home side to a 0-0 draw in front of a 3672 spectators.

The home side came into the game after having a week off with the bye while Sydney United traveled to Newcastle on the back of an impressive 3-0 win over the Brisbane Strikers.

For Newcastle Craig Deans made his first NSL start in eighteen months following a lengthy layoff with injury. Coach Ian Crook experimented with his tactics, choosing to pair Greg Owens and Damien Brown up front. Captain Robbie Middleby returned to the starting eleven after a hamstring injury which sidelined the winger for three weeks while Esala Masi was dropped to the bench.

Sydney United fielded an unchanged line-up as they looked to consolidate their

position in the top six. The Sydney based club had kept three clean sheets in a row and conceded just four goals prior to this encounter.

The game started with both sides sitting back and failing to stamp their authority on the match.

The partnership of Owens and Brown up front never looked like troubling a resolute Sydney United defence with the experience of Joe Vrkic and Mark Rudan.

Newcastle enjoyed the majority of the possession in the opening exchanges, however, it was the away side which created the first clear cut chance. On 15 minutes a Franco Parisi corner from the right found the head of an unmarked Rudan whose header shaved the crossbar from inside the six yard box.

On 29 minutes the home side created one of only a handful of chances in the first half.

Mitchell Johnson picked out the run of Middleby on the right who held off the challenge of his defender before delivering a cross from

the byline. Owens flicked on a header towards goal only to see Michael

Cunico clear with effort off the line.

Newcastle almost took the lead on 35 minutes when a rare defensive blunder saw Ryan Griffiths through on goal. A weak backpass gifted possession to the young striker who was unable to produce a shot as Liam Reddy rushed out of his goal. The ball deflected off the Sydney United custodian and bounced just inches wide of his right hand post as he and Griffiths collided.

The 39th minute saw the away side create the best chance of the first half with only a goal line clearance preventing Sydney United from taking the lead.

A curling cross from the right delivered by young Soccerroo Franco Parisi picked out the run of Mark Rudan. The veteran defender headed the ball towards goal only for Peter Tskenis to clear the danger.

Neither side managed to hold the ball for an extended

period of time as players constantly gave away possession. Ian Crook summed up the pattern of the game when he said, "We had it for one pass then they had it for one pass."

The second half was no different with neither side looking like finding the elusive goal. Ian Crook decided to push Ryan Griffiths up front for the final 45 minutes after his surprise decision to play the young striker as a left wingback in the first half.

Ryan Griffiths was immediately involved in the action on 46 minutes when a Mitchell Johnson cross from the left picked out the youngster.

On 56 minutes the home side thought they had taken the lead before the referee disallowed the goal for offside.

Ryan Griffiths played a ball into the box for Greg Owens whose shot hit the inside of the post before rebounding into the goal.

However, Owens was clearly in an offside position and the scores remained deadlocked at 0-0.

The 63rd minute saw Sydney United coach Grant Lee bring on veteran striker Zeljko Babic in place of Franco Parisi to provide a spark up front. The experienced forward made an impact as his presence unsettled the Newcastle defence.

On 79 minutes Babic was released on the right and powered his way towards the box before firing a shot from the edge of the area, forcing John Perosh into a good fingertip save.

In the end both sides had to settle for a point as Sydney United kept their fourth consecutive clean sheet while Newcastle United temporarily move back into the top six.

Ian Crook believed his side's performance could be put down to a lack of confidence saying, "This game is all about confidence."

"Neither team was able to string anything together," said Crook.

Both coaches were disappointed with the result with Crook saying, "It's disappointing to drop points at home."

Sydney United coach Grant Lee commented, "We aren't satisfied coming anywhere, sitting back and getting a point."

"If ever there was a 0-0 tonight was the night," summed up Crook.



Wollongong Wolves

3



Parramatta Power

1

THE biggest betting plunge in NSL history came unstuck last Friday evening with the unfancied Wollongong upsetting leaders Parramatta Power at WIN Stadium.

Punters put \$56,000 on the unbeaten Power to beat the Wolves, leading TAB Ltd's sporting arm SportsTAB to suspend the betting market on Thursday afternoon.

SportsTAB media manager Glenn Munsie confirmed a string of huge bets on the Power began late on Wednesday and continued on Thursday before the market was suspended.

But second from bottom Wollongong tonight made a mockery of the form guide and cashed in for a deserved victory.

Completing a black night

for Parramatta, midfielder Simon Colosimo was sent off 17 minutes from fulltime for a rash challenge on Wolves midfielder Nahuel Arrarte.

But by then the Wolves led 3-1 and were coasting to their first home victory of the season.

Having managed just three goals in seven previous games, Wollongong struck twice by halftime.

Arrarte scored on 29 minutes after striker Stuart Young's clever dummy carved open the Power defence.

The Wolves held the lead for just four minutes with ex-Wolf Alvin Ceccoli crashing home a 20 metre drive.

But Wollongong already had a sniff of a massive upset and hardworking midfielder Michael Hawrysiuk had the home side in front 2-1 three minutes from half-time.

Not for the first time the complacent Power defence failed to clear and Hawrysiuk made them pay with a sweet shot from the edge of the penalty box.

Wollongong missed two clear chances to make it 3-1 early in the second half before Young stripped Ceccoli of possession inside the Power penalty box and delivered a pinpoint cross for Hawrysiuk to head home the Wolves third goal.

A small crowd of just 2089 fans cheered the Wolves to an emotional vic-

tory in what was one of the biggest upsets of the season so far.

Wolves coach John Turner was delighted to claim his first home win as an NSL coach. "It's a gigantic win," Turner said.

"I still regard Parramatta as the best team in the league and it brought out the best in us."

"We've been unlucky in a few games and a result like this is just what the club needs to push us up the table".

Parramatta coach Nick Theodorakopoulos had no excuses.

"We were beaten fair and square. The Wolves fully deserved it and I can't say anything other than to give full credit to Wollongong."

"John (Turner) had a toughish start to the season but we knew they were capable of playing like this".

Wollongong had a number of fine players including two-goal hero Hawrysiuk and striker Young.

Star-studded Parramatta was always battling to stay on terms with Wollongong and were best served by goalkeeper Clint Bolton and midfielder

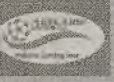

Andre Gumprecht.

Source - AAP



"That's how we do it in Wollongong" - Sydney United's Nahuel Arrarte celebrates Wollongong's first goal against high flyers Parramatta.

National Soccer League

	Adelaide United	1
	Perth Glory	4

By Andrew Howe

A comprehensive performance by Perth Glory at Hindmarsh Stadium sent Adelaide United, the NSL's only undefeated team leading in to the match, crashing to a 4-1 loss and returned Glory to the top of the national league ladder.

Aside from the three goal margin, all other indicators seemed to reflect a relatively even match: shots on target (7-6 to Perth), forays into penalty area (15-14 to Perth) and the corner count (5-2 to Adelaide) indicated Adelaide United were not at all out of contention. And at least two of the Perth Glory goals emanated from uncharacteristic defensive blunders.

Nevertheless it was a resounding display by the reigning champions who, overall, did outclass the home team all over the park.

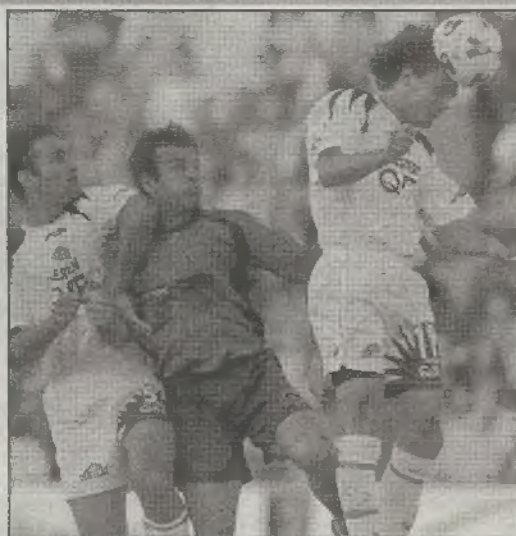
A fairly even first 15 minutes was highlighted by a brilliant solo run down the

line from Adelaide's Matthew Kemp who crossed the ball almost perfectly to Carl Veart - however Perth goalkeeper Jason Petkovic just managed to intercept before Veart's head got to the ball.

Then a low drive from 25 meters out by Tom Pondeljak seemed to be a speculative shot - however the ball found its way in to made the scoreline 1-0 in the 15th minute.

Just one minute later it was Damian Mori who made a diagonal run just outside the penalty box, breezing through the Adelaide United defence, rounding Richie Alagich and unleashing a well-placed shot past a stranded Adelaide goalkeeper David Scarsella to make it two goals for the visitors.

Barely one more minute had passed when Lozanovski set out on a run along the right side line - after tracking back and expertly evading two Glory defenders, the 29 year old sent over a cross which found Aurelio Vidmar



Adelaide's Elias Demourtzidis shown sandwiched between Glory's Shaun Murphy (left) & Jade North (right)

on the left hand side of goal. The Adelaide captain, making it seem like he had an eternity, headed the ball back to Matthew Kemp who made no mistake with a strong low shot from 15 meters out cut Perth's lead by half.

The remaining 26 minutes of the first half was an even

affair, with Adelaide pressuring for the equalizer and the visitors, in typical Perth Glory fashion, making its chances from breaks.

Soon after the interval Bobby Despotovski set off on a neat run and, taking advantage of some hesitation in the Adelaide defence, chipped

Scarsella to make it 3-1 to Perth.



The Glory had the best of the second half, linking together well in attack and quickly snuffing out any Adelaide play with an effective zonal defence.

At 67 minutes what was nearly the most audacious goal of the season: seeing Scarsella way off his line, Despotovski lobbed from around 50 meters with the ball bouncing back after hitting the inside of the upright.

With the final whistle almost blown, Tom Pondeljak took advantage of another case of hesitancy in Adelaide's defence. Hoping for what would have been Perth's tenth off-side call for the match, the Adelaide players stalled long enough to allow the experienced midfielder to set free on the left. Pondeljak capped off an excellent match by neatly slotting home the final goal.

John Kosmina was clearly upset at his team's performance. The Adelaide coach commented about lack of pressure leading to Perth's first two goals, while the third goal conceded was "from just plain dumbness".

Glory Assistant Alan Vest praised Shaun Murphy as the player to watch out for in the coming season.

	Marconi Stallions	1
	Brisbane Strikers	0

By Joe Russo

Marconi got away with a narrow win over Brisbane Strikers thanks to Nick Carle's first goal of the season in the 67th minute but it must be said that Brisbane, who played with ten men for 70 minutes, were perhaps unlucky to not at least get a draw.

Despite the numerical advantage, after player-coach Stuart McLaren was sent off for a terrible tackle on Shane Webb in the 20th minute, it appeared that the Stallions didn't really know what to do with the extra player.

It was not until midway through the second half that Marconi really started to play with confidence and create several chances. However, once this happened Marconi should have really scored another couple of goals.

Stallions coach Jean Paul De Marigny acknowledged this fact after the game.

"It could have been more especially in the second half. I thought we created enough chances to score more goals but credit to Brisbane. We're happy with a clean sheet and

the three points," he said.

De Marigny was also pleased that Carle, arguably the best player on the field, managed to score his first goal of the season.

"Nick has had a few opportunities and it was only a matter of time until he was going to hit the back of the net. He chose a good time to do that. We are happy with Nick and the way he is performing. He is a real asset to us," De Marigny said.

Despite the talk that Marconi had failed to really capitalise on the extra man De Marigny was pleased with his side given that several key players, including Brad Maloney, Joe Spiteri and Alex Brosque, were missing.

"We have two strikers out at the moment. Brosque is on international duty and Spiteri is out for the one week. It was always going to be difficult because Brisbane is a good side. They knocked the ball around really well but that is what our squad's all about," he said.

McLaren wasn't avoiding responsibility for the terrible tackle that saw his team reduced to ten players for most of the game. It was a

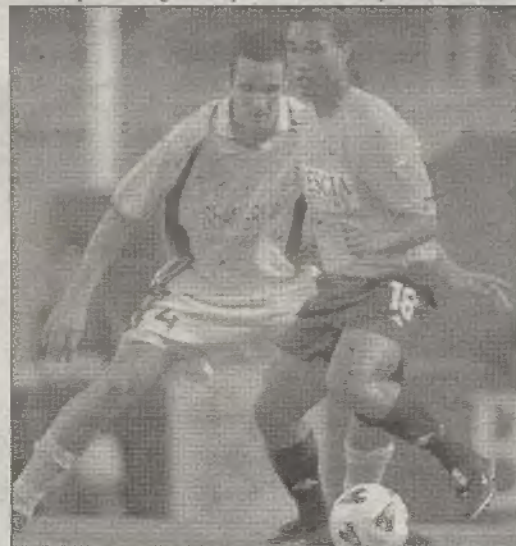
balmy summer evening and it was perhaps a real rush of blood to the head as it was completely unnecessary to challenge Webb in such a fashion near the half way line.

"I just said to the players [at the end of the game] who have all come in disappointed not to be. I shoulder 100% of the blame for what went on today but to a man my players were absolutely fantastic. We made a quick change in shape

to counteract the sending off and the players played brilliantly.

"In the last minute of the [first] half we could have gone 1-0 up and it would have made it a totally different game," McLaren said.

The incident McLaren was referring to was when Royce Brownlie raced virtually the length of the field on the stroke of halftime only to shoot weakly when he had at



Stallions star Nick Carle played an outstanding game and scored his first goal for the club against the Strikers. (Photo By Carlos Furtado)

least another two players in support and unmarked. It was clearly the best chance of what was a rather ordinary first half.

In the 67th minute Carle scored after the Strikers's defence was too slow to close him down and his left foot shot finished in the bottom corner of the net.

Brisbane keeper Scott Higgins did very well to save from Eric Anabalon in the 70th minute and then again from Shane Webb who seemed certain to score from the rebound.

In the 75th minute Carle saw his diagonal shot finish just wide and in the 81st minute it was Michael Turnbull who somehow got down low to deny Shane Stefanutto from point blank range.

Marconi almost scored three minutes later but once again Brisbane can thank their goalkeeper Higgins. First he denied Carle, then Webb from the rebound from close range and finally Anabalon volleyed into the side netting.

Players Ratings

MARCONI: Turnbull 7, Longo 6, Costanzo 7, Casserly 5, Gibson 5 (46th), Anabalon 7, Last 6, Renaud 6, Thwake 6, Webb 7, Carle 8, Harris 6

BRISBANE: Higgins 8, Dodd 6, Stefanutto 7, McCloughan 6, McLaren 5, Grierson 7, Brownlie 6, Brain 6, Pilić 6, Moon 7, Morley 6

FAIRFIELD BULLS SOCCER CLUB

Trials for First Grade in Super League

Trials Commence On

Tuesday	18th November	7pm
Thursday	20th November	7pm
Sunday	23rd November	9am
Tuesday	25th November	7pm
Thursday	27th November	7pm
Sunday	30th November	9am

at

Fairfield Bulls Soccer Ground

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Hugh McCrory Lenny Isaac John Mundt
0419 361 223 0410 491 511 0425 214 560



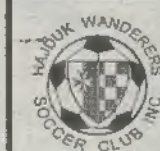
MT PRITCHARD & DISTRICT FEDERATION SOCCER CLUB
A Sub-Club of Mt Pritchard & District Community Club

STATE LEAGUE TRIALS

at Amalfi Park,
Graham Avenue, Lurnea.

The Trials will be held on,
Tuesday November 25
Thursday November 20
from 6.30pm and on
Sunday 30th November at 10am

For more information please contact
Mrs Lyn Lock 9607 2156 or
Mobile 0414 413 526 or
Mr Greg Ryan 0417 656 658



SUPER LEAGUE



Trials 2004 Season

A.C. UNITED & HAJDUK WANDERERS HAVE MERGED

To become

HAJDUK WANDERERS UNITED SC

Players are invited to trial for our
1st Grade & U20's

Thursday, November 20th and 27th
Commencing 6.30pm

Sunday, November 23rd and 30th
Commencing 4.30pm

Please note both Grades will be trialling at the same time

Contact: Charles Adbilla on 0416 171 896
John Palmano: 0412 921 131

PLAYERS TO ARRIVE 30 MINUTES PRIOR
START TIMES TO REGISTER

ALL TRIALS TO BE HELD AT HAJDUK STADIUM
130 EDENSOR ROAD, ST JOHNS PARK

National Soccer League

Sydney Olympic

2

Kingz

2

By Peter Damalas

The Football Kingz secured their first point of the season in dreadful conditions at OKI Jubilee Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

All the action took place in a first half that was disrupted by a severe hailstorm which brought proceedings to a halt for nearly twenty minutes, while the half time break was reduced to a brief interval.

The Kingz began and ended the first half the stronger of the two teams, and the goals scored highlighted the competitiveness of the bottom placed club.

Poor control and passing was a constant of this fixture, ruined as a spectacle by the torrents of wind and rain that had a severe impact on the end result.

Rookie Kingz goalkeeper, Ross Nicholson, will rue the gusty conditions that pushed

his clearance up instead of away, and Hiroyuki Ishida profited with an equaliser.

Earlier, in the third minute, Jason Rowley scored for the away side after Brett Hughes parried a Jeff Campbell cross into his path.

But Ishida repaid coach Pete Papanikitas, faith in placing him in an advance role up front, by controlling Nicholson's attempted clearance and slotting the ball away in the tenth minute.

As the rain continued to tumble, the play became concentrated on the near touch-line, and both teams were unable to exploit the other with quick breaks. Ishida led his team out of danger on many occasions, but the final ball often sped away from his teammates on the slippery surface.

In the 34th minute, play was stopped for an eighteen minute period as the hail set in.

Two minutes after the

restart, Pablo Cardozo scored for Olympic.

Midfielder George Goutzioulis, a new signing from Singapore, released Zenon Caravella on the right, whose cross was turned in on the volley by Cardozo. Nicholson was beaten on his near post when he might have done better to get across and cover the area. For Cardozo, it was his second goal in two weeks after a barren spell in the first six matches, and pushed him to 120 goals in his NSL career.

However, the final five minutes of play in the first half were dominated by the Kingz. Olympic's defence were worked hard as the half drew to a close, and the equaliser finally came five minutes into stoppage time. An Aleksander Midtsian cross was headed home by a stooping John Tambouras, and it beat George Souris on the line. The Kingz defender excelled in the diffi-

cult conditions, cutting out many Olympic forays on the right and contributing in attack with his penalty box presence.

Olympic were rather upset with the time added on to the first half, and there was some disagreement between the fourth official and referee Ben Williams about the length of injury time.

The home side controlled the second period, but could not take advantage of their territorial dominance. Midfield playmaker, Troy Halpin, was introduced early in the half after a stint in Malaysia with Johor.

His quick passing increased the tempo of the match and he attempted to reignite the team alongside Ishida. Caravella had an opportunity to punish the Kingz for their penalty box hesitancy, but his shot went wide of the upright.

The Kingz, for their part, displayed resilience and composure at the back for most of

the second half, but were slow to create chances on the break.

Midtsian had a left foot piledriver comfortably saved by Hughes, while Chad Coombes could not direct his header beyond Souris on the Olympic goal line.

The controversial moment

of the second half occurred in the 86th minute, when midfielder Iain Fyfe fell to ground perilously close to the penalty area.

Supporters claimed that he was impeded in the area, while the Kingz players insisted that he fell of his own accord.

Referee Williams awarded a free kick outside the area, and Cardozo curled the ball around the wall but beyond the far post.

Substitute Jim Bakis was caught in two minds late in the match as his cross-cum-shot eluded everyone and went for a goal kick.

Despite the horrendous conditions, both clubs can take a lot of positives from the 2-2 draw. Olympic are slowly rebuilding their squad, and the arrival of Halpin and Goutzioulis will add depth and creativity to the midfield as Cardozo rediscovers his goalscoring form, while the Kingz defence held firm in tough circumstances.



"We finally got a point," Kingz players celebrate the side's first goal against Sydney Olympic last week.

Player Ratings

Sydney Olympic: Hughes (6), Souris (6), Kohler (6), Juric (6.5), Schirripa (6), Fyfe (5.5), Cardozo (7), Augerinos (6), Goutzioulis (7), Ishida (8), Caravella (7).
Subs: Halpin (6.5), Bakis (6).

Football Kingz: Nicholson (6), Midtsian (7), Tambouras (7.5), Jackson (7), Burton (6.5), Campbell (6.5), Ngata (6), Rowley (7), Donoso (6), Schjervén (6), Harries (6).
Subs: Coombes (6), Seaman (6).

Melbourne Knights

0

South Melbourne

5

By Alan Clark

South Melbourne swept aside Melbourne Knights at Somers Street on Sunday, with five unanswered goals, four in the first half, creating a new record margin for games between these two city rivals.

Knights, coach Ian Dobson indicated he'd "gone off" at his players in the rooms at half-time for his side's sub-standard performance. "It was totally embarrassing in the first half," he said. "(We) showed a lack of passion and effort. I thought it was pathetic."

"We were disgusting in the first half," said Dobson. "We were very disorganised and consequently got punished for it."

"You never expect anything like that," said South coach Stuart Munro after the game. "We had to make sure we came away from here with three points. One-nil would have done me today. The supporters and the club and the Directors would be really happy because we got five, (but our aim is) to gather the three points in places we should."

Michael Panopoulos opened the scoring just before the quarter-hour. Paul Trimboli a double either side of the half-hour, and Vaughan Coveny the fourth with almost ten minutes of the first half still to be played.

Michael Curcija blasted home a 25 metre free-kick in the game's dying moments to end the game.

With South four-nil up at the break, the game had long ceased to be a contest, a fact the larger than usual home crowd who had responded to their club's call loudly made clear to their team as they departed the pitch.

"The (crowd's) criticism aimed at the players at half-time was justified," said Dobson.

Their mood was not improved by the dismissal ten minutes into the second-half of midfielder Andy Vargas who collected his second yellow card of the game with a foul on Panopoulos, leaving his side to weather a rampant South combination undismayed.

The game had burst into life just before the quarter-hour when Panopoulos struck sweetly from 25 metres. Marcus Stergiopoulos, who

has had a quiet start for South since joining the Lakesiders this season, made his arrival known with a raid through the middle before laying off to Panopoulos to his right. With defenders melting away in front of him, Panopoulos launched a right-foot thunderbolt which whistled by Knights, keeper Tommi Tomich and into the roof of the net.

South extended the lead midway through the half when club favourite Trimboli celebrating his first start for South this season ghosted in at the far post to blast home a cross from Sam Poutakidis. Poutakidis had barely been troubled by the challenge of Isyan Erdogan as he made his way to the byeline inside the penalty-area before sending across his fierce low drive.

Referee Angelo Nardi had to deal with a number of clashes in a sticky patch either side of the goal. Henry Fa'arodo's last involvement in the game was to receive a yellow card after his challenge on Panopoulos at the half-way line which also resulted in him departing the pitch with what was later reported as medial ligament damage. His replace-

ment, Bill Natsioulas, was instantly into action, serving up a cross from the right to the head of Nick Waite at the far-post only to see the burly striker head extravagantly over the bar.

The miss proved costly, as within a four minute period, South doubled its lead. Trimboli put away his second and South's third from an impossible angle, running on to a cross from Con Boutsianis, instantly controlling it with his chest, then

Player Ratings

Melbourne Knights: (4-4-2) Tomich (6), Zilic (6), Leijer (5), Vargas R (6), Kovacic (6), Erdogan (7), Pelikan (6), Vargas A (5), Sabljak (5), Razov (6.7), Waite (4), Fa'arodo (Natsioulas 30 (7)).
Subs not used: Marth, Zilic (6).

South Melbourne: (4-4-2) Galekovic (8), Osman (7), Kovacic (7), Laurie (7), Poutakidis (8), Recchia (8), Coveny (6), Panopoulos (8), Sarkies (5.8), Stergiopoulos (8), Boutsianis (9), Tunbridge (6.9), Curcija (8), Trimboli (9).
Sub not used: Theoklitis (6).

shooting around the hapless Tomich despite the close attentions of Adrian Leijer.

Coveny then made it four following up a shot from Boutsianis. Coveny's first shot was into the body of Tomich, but not held, allowing Coveny to put away the rebound.

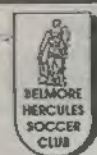
If Dobson had hoped his half-time team-talk could turn things around it was dashed following Andy Vargas, dismissal. South, however, seemed to be of the view that its job had been done, and

rarely made the same commitment to attack as in the first period. Whatever the reason, Knights was much more competitive. "Considering we went down to ten men, I thought we competed very well in the second half" Dobson said. "But the game was done and finished at that stage."

Pelikan had a rare Knights chance when he snapped up a badly-directed cross-field pass by Ante Kovacic and bared towards the open goal, only to shoot wide.

Tomich's second-half was a much more suitable addition to his highlights tape, saving well from consecutive efforts from Scott Tunbridge and Coveny. His opposite number Eugene Galekovic had a very quiet game, only coming into action on one occasion seven minutes from the end when he tipped Pelikan's penalty-edge free-kick onto the bar.

Curcija had a longer-range free-kick shortly after, which Tomich never got near, to put an end to an unequal contest.



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Under 15s 1st Division Youth League:	Tuesdays 14,21 & 28 October and 4 November 2003	6-8pm
Under 16s 1st Division Youth League:	Tuesdays 14,21 & 28 October and 4 November 2003	6-8pm
Under 18s 1st Division Youth League:	Thursdays 16,23 & 30 October and 6 November 2003	6-8pm
also		
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BYE - NORTHERN SPIRIT

FONTANA BLASTS WOLVES FOR IGNORING YOUTH TALENT

Former Wollongong Wolves star Glenn Fontana has slammed the club for ignoring local talent in the Illawarra.

Fontana, a NSW junior coach who also acts as English Premier League club Liverpool's scout in the region, fears Wolves will not make the final cut for the proposed Australian Premier League. "It is paramount for the 8000 kids that play here that we have a team in the Australian premier league," he told the Illawarra Mercury.

"But for that to happen a lot of things have got to change. The attitude that 'we are here, now you come to us' is obviously not working. It is time for the Wolves to go out to the community and the soccer fraternity that exists in the Illawarra.

"If you respect people, people respect you," Fontana continued. "The biggest problem I see is with some of the directors and their relationship with the Illawarra soccer fraternity."

"If you don't like someone but know that the big picture can be enhanced by them being part of it (all), you should go for the big picture. The resources exist and so do sponsors if the club is able to encompass the entire soccer community."

"We have people like Casey De Bruin, Adrian Alston and Stuart Beedie, among others, who have a lot to offer."



Glenn Fontana has slammed the Wolves youth system

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2003-2004 NORTHERN DIVISION ROUND 8

LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	7	5	1	1	1	24	12	16
Marconi Stallions	9	4	2	0	3	16	12	14
AIS	5	4	1	2	0	14	4	13
Parramatta Power	7	4	0	1	3	18	11	12
Brisbane Strikers	7	4	0	2	3	12	10	12
Wollongong Wolves	6	4	0	1	2	9	9	12
Northern Spirit	8	3	2	2	3	7	9	11
Sydney United	8	3	0	1	5	15	19	9
Newcastle United	7	2	2	0	3	9	8	8
QAS	5	1	1	2	3	8	11	4
Sydney Olympic	6	1	1	1	4	7	13	4
ACTAS	5	0	0	1	5	2	23	0

FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2003

Wollongong Wolves1 Parramatta Power5
(Werakso 74') (Bridge 44' 68' 70', Aslan 51', Simpson 83')

Newcastle United2 Sydney United3
(Ciarocchi 21', Boogaard 85') (Zmire 49', Cevenini 76', Simic 83')

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2003

Canberra Deakin9 ACTAS0
(Cattanach 11' 77', Pideski 29' 42' 46', Spaleta 35' 86', Caldwell 55', Mehr 84')

Marconi Stallions2 Brisbane Strikers0
(Cappuccio 22', Rossi 77')

QAS1 Northern Spirit2
(Grossman 66') (Mailer 41', Obeid 79')

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2003-2004

NORTHERN DIVISION FIXTURES - ROUND 10

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2003

ACTAS Vs QAS

Time: 5.00pm

Venue: Hawker Oval

Newcastle United Vs Sydney Olympic

Time: 5.15pm

Venue: Energy Australia Stadium

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2003

* Brisbane Strikers Vs Parramatta Power

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: Perry Park

* (Match will proceed subject to favourable weather conditions)

AIS Vs Marconi Stallions

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: AIS Soccer Field

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2003

Northern Spirit Vs Sydney United

Time: 4.00pm

Venue: Pittwater Park

DEFERRED MATCH FROM RD 3 - To be played on Sunday 23

Canberra Deakin Vs QAS

Time: 3.30pm

Venue: McKellar Soccer Centre

BYE - Canberra Deakin

BYE - Wollongong Wolves

NYL TOP SCORERS

Canberra Deakin	7
Parramatta Power	6
Newcastle United	4
A.I.S.	4
Q.A.S.	4
Canberra Deakin	4
Marconi Stallions	4

Cattanach Robbie
Bridge Mark
Boogaard Nigel
Deegan Mathew
Grossman Chris
Menser Matthew
Severino Daniel

SOCCERWOMAN by Janene Mar

WNSL 2003/04 - ROUND FIVE

NSW Sapphires and Queensland Sting continue their joint surge atop the WNSL with comfortable victories in this weekend's halfway point of the season, whilst Adelaide Sensation moved back into third spot.

SENSATION SCORE VALUABLE WIN

ADELAIDE SENSATION 2 (Christina Papageorgiou 73m, Lisa De Vanna 78m) defeated CANBERRA ECLIPSE 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

Sunday afternoon at home, Adelaide Sensation produced a valuable 2-0 victory over Canberra Eclipse to move up two places on the ladder.

Adelaide's Lisa De Vanna had the game's first opportunity, beating two defenders before goalkeeper Amy Beattie won the one-on-one by parrying the shot. Four minutes later for Eclipse, Gwen David beat the off-side trap but sent the ball wide.

Despite a chance at each end, the game had been a fairly tight midfield tussle for the opening 20 minutes, but Sensation then set free into attack. On the half-hour, an Adelaide freekick, a Chichi May piledriver from 35 metres, escaped the keeper's clutches and found its way over the line but the referee disallowed the goal, the home side protesting the decision. In a lively last eight minutes leading into half-time, Adelaide peppered the opposition goal but without reward. De Vanna was again denied by the keeper and also sent another effort wide,

whilst Amy Shigrov headed over the bar, and Roushan Walsh had two long range attempts.

Finally Adelaide scored the inevitable goal in the 73rd minute. De Vanna cut the ball back for substitute Christina Papageorgiou who hit the back of the net from just inside the 18-yard box. The home side sealed the win five minutes later; De Vanna this time the scorer. Stocco flicked the ball first time to the striker who beat her marker and stuck the ball inside the far post. De Vanna and Alagich each had a further chance to add to the tally.

Sensation - Wirkus, May, Shigrov, Alagich, Day, Spagnoletti, Stocco, Walsh (Burgess 88), Wilson (Papageorgiou 58), Slater, De Vanna.

Eclipse - Beattie, Davies, Staniforth, Taylor, Frewin (Doyle 72), Wilson, Karp, Hepperdin, C Maciejewski, David (Brush 46), Munoz.

STING SMACK PRIDE FOR FIVE

QUEENSLAND STING 5 (Alicia Ferguson 5m, Bryony Duus 21m, Belinda Dawney 23m, 38m, Jessica Mitchell 80m) defeated NORTHERN NSW PRIDE 1 (Amber Neilson 85m) at ANZ Stadium, Brisbane

On Saturday night in Brisbane, Queensland Sting scored four first half goals to finish with a resounding 5-1 victory over Northern NSW Pride.

Northern were forced to play two thirds of the game with ten players after the sending off of key midfielder Danielle Small, whilst Queensland also had a red card issued to substitute Veronica Williams late in the clash. Queensland looked sharp in the open-

ing 25 minutes after taking the lead in the first five minutes with Alicia Ferguson finishing a neat Heather Garriock cross.

Bryony Duus took the home side's advantage to two with a goal in the 21st minute. Lana Harch's dangerous cross across the face of goal missed by the dive of the keeper to land at the midfielder's feet for a simple tap home.

Only two minutes later, another inviting Garriock cross was sent into the back of the net by Belinda Dawney, further demoralising visitors Pride, already behind by three. Northern's Small lined up a freekick in the 29th minute but sent the ball well wide and was shown a yellow card for foul language, her second card for the match and therefore a send-off.

Dawney then rubbed further salt into Northern's wound with her second goal, converting a Harch cross seven minutes before the break.

Although with a numerical advantage, Sting seemed to relax and were not nearly as incisive against their ten-player opponent, unable to score any further goals despite several very good chances, until the 80th minute. Jessica Mitchell, ten minutes after coming in off the bench, scored a fantastic solo goal, racing at goal and eluding the diving challenge of the keeper before slotting into the open goal.

Northern scored a consolation goal after the second dramatic send-off with five minutes remaining. Captain Amber Neilson threatened Sting's goal and was bundled down although managed to get her shot away. With the ball bobbling towards goal, Williams stopped a certain goal via a handball, and was promptly dismissed. Neilson put away the resultant penalty.

Sting - Kitching (Catchpole 87), McShea, Reuter (Polkinghorne 85), Garven, Grant, Garriock, Duus, Ferguson (Reed 80), Harch (Williams 75), Mann, Dawney (Mitchell 70).

Pride - Herd (Logue 39), Wilson, Tristram (Khamis 60), Oxtoby (Cotts 39), Shepherd (McMinn 80), Neilson, Colthorpe, Small, Baker (O'Toole 61), Crawford, Gill.

PROGRESSIVE POINTS LADDER

	P	W	D	L	E	A	GD	Pts
NSW SAPPHIRES	5	4	1	-	17	3	14	13
QUEENSLAND STING	5	4	1	-	16	4	12	13
ADELAIDE SENSATION	5	2	-	3	7	8	-1	6
VICTORIA VISION	5	1	2	2	8	14	-6	5
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	5	1	1	3	2	5	-3	4
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	5	0	1	4	8	24	-16	1

LEADING GOALSCORERS 2003/04

5	Belinda DAWNEY	Queensland Sting
5	Catherine CANNULI	NSW Sapphires
5	Jessica MITCHELL	Queensland Sting
4	Belinda PANNELLA	Victoria Vision
3	Michelle CARNEY	NSW Sapphires
3	Kylie LEDBROOK	NSW Sapphires
3	Sally SHIPARD	NSW Sapphires

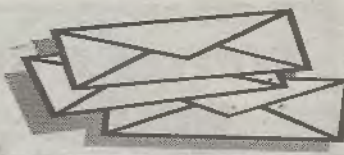
NEXT ROUND - ROUND FIVE

Saturday 22 November		
Victoria Vision v Canberra Eclipse	3.00pm	Bulleen Soccer Club
Saturday 22 November		
Queensland Sting v Adelaide Sensation	5.00pm	ANZ Stadium
Sunday 23 November		
NSW Sapphires v Northern NSW Pride	3.00pm	Valentine Park, Sydney

NOTE: More information on the NSW Sapphires' four-one win over the Victoria Vision read on Page 19 in ABSW's 8-page NSW section.



Letters & Giveaways



POWERFUL DISPLAYS

Dear Sir,

Bring on the Power! I simply could not believe the way in which Parramatta demolished the Perth Glory last weekend.

The defending champions showed none of the qualities that have made them the best team in the country, and the western Sydney club are sure to take over the mantle of best team at the end of the season.

Parramatta displayed intensity, speed and quality in both going forward and defending to completely whitewash the Glory, who were unable to get into the game. I felt. This result has proven the immense dependency that Perth have placed on the front pairing of Mori and Despotovski. Cut off the service to these guys, and you stop the threat of the team from the west.

For Parramatta, they have talent across the park, and I feel the loss of Durante through injury will spur the players on towards a championship victory, which will hopefully convince the people at the top to keep the Power running.

Christine Dutton,
North Parramatta, NSW.

ANSWERS PLEASE

Dear Sir,

What hope do Parramatta have of staying in the league if the drawcard fixture, a home match against closest rivals Perth, cannot attract even a semi decent crowd.

Denis Fitzgerald's suggestion that the Power might remain alive next season due to the World Club Championship is forlorn to say the least. I think he is clutching at straws.

The club have failed to succeed on the pitch for the past four years, and off the field their attendances have been little short of disastrous.

A shame really, I think Parramatta would have had a prosperous future under a Lowy led national league.

Peter Sebastian,
Chippendale, NSW.

MALONEY DESERVED IT

Dear Sir,

I think that the extra match suspension for Brad Maloney was entirely justified. In cases such as the tackle on Andrew Durante, the disciplinary tribunal has to think carefully about an appropriate course of action, a two match ban for the red card alone was not sufficient.

Maloney will use the month off football to ponder and contemplate his actions, and rectify his ultra aggressive approach to the game. I am all for giving 100% commitment to the cause of the team, but at times, Maloney and a few of the other Marconi players went slightly overboard. This is soccer, remember, the 'beautiful game', not rugby union, where stomping and kicking are commonplace.

Hopefully, the example set in this case will deter other players from going into unnecessarily dangerous tackles.

Simon Sarkles,
South Yarra, VIC.

FOUL PLAY

Dear Sir,

I think the mess involving Maloney and Durante has displayed just how inadequate soccer authorities and the media are in clearing up the major issues in the sport.

The newspapers, websites and radio and television coverage have so far been slow to come to a complete conclusion about the tackle, and it is sure to linger as a negative aspect of the season. And why has it taken so long for the disciplinary tribunal to bring Maloney and de Manigny in to explain their actions after the player's red card?

I've seen the tackle many times, and as far as I can see, the main problem is the fact that Durante spiralled over. In every soccer match that I watch live or on television, I spot so many mistimed tackles, often with studs up, that fail to connect and simply lead to a minor bruising. Maloney probably shouldn't have gone in with the intensity that he did in this incident, but it was unfortunate for both parties that it was poorly timed and connected with the defender.

Michael Browning,
Richmond, VIC.

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FIFA 2004 Question: Who won the Champions League last year?

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The Lions — 2003 Champions of Queensland

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By Paul Schiavo

SUPER SUMMER LEAGUE

QUEENSLAND LIONS 1 NORTH COAST SUNS 0 HT 0-0

Goal scorer: Jayce Gilchrist 60th minute

Round 3 of fixtures in the Super Summer League was to provide a stern test for the young Lion's team as they faced the undefeated North Coast Suns at Lion's Stadium. Lions came into the fixture buoyed by an

impressive victory over Redlands whilst the Paul Foster coached Suns had won both their previous encounters, against South West Queensland and Rochdale Rovers and were sitting on top of the ladder.

As expected it was the Suns that were to make the first chance after only three minutes. Fraser Robinson put Jed Wright in on goals and with only keeper Griffin McMaster to beat, sliced his shot onto the top of the crossbar from just inside the area. It was a let off for Lions and in the end was to prove costly for the Suns.

Not to be out done, Lions were next to come close minutes later but a last ditch tackle by Sam Murdoch on Jayce Gilchrist saved the day for the Suns.

Sun's keeper, Luke Wingfield came to the Sun's rescue in the 9th minute intercepting a pass from Jayce Gilchrist that looked as though it was landing at the feet of an unmarked Josh Chelepy, only meters from goal.

Lions were dominating play in the mid-field and in the 13th minute, Josh Chelepy found overlapping full back James Rodden on the left but his strike from 25 metres failed to hit the target.

In the 15th minute, Lions had their best chance to take the lead. Ben Cavanaugh played Jayce Gilchrist in on goals but his strike from 10 metres out struck Wingfield who then cleared to safety.

Gilchrist had another chance minutes later to give Lions the lead. Matt Suleau won a great challenge in midfield before playing the ball wide to Carl Barker. Barker's first time cross floated into the area where Luke Wingfield misjudged his punch and Gilchrist just failed to lob his header over the advancing keeper and into the vacant goal.

Apart from their initial strike on goal, it took the Suns until the 23rd minute of the half before they tested the Lion's defense. Adam Bostock played a ball to Jed Wright wide on the left. The attacker took on his marker before pulling the ball back to Bostock but his first time strike from the edge of the area was well saved by Griffin McMaster.

In the 25th minute, a Matt Suleau free kick from the left was driven across the Sun's six-yard box causing the Sun's defense all sorts of problems before finally being cleared to safety.

Two minutes later another chance fell to Lions. With many of the players appealing for hand ball, Jayce Gilchrist pounced on the loose ball and taking on a defender hit the by-line before pulling the ball back to Josh Chelepy but his effort was easily saved by Winfield.

In the 36th minute the Suns came close to opening their account. The ball bounced kindly for Jed Wright on the edge of the area and only a fine tackle by Sean O'Neill after the Sun's forward had rounded the keeper, prevented the Suns from taking the lead.

HALF TIME

QLD LIONS 0 NORTH COAST SUNS 0

All the indications prior to this fixture had predicted that the young Lion's side would struggle against their older and more fancied opponents. However, apart from the early Jed Wright effort, it was the Lions that should have gone into half time with their noses in front after dominating possession and having squandered a number of chances.

As in the first half, it was the Suns that had the early chance in the second half to open their account. Kyle Sutton passed to Jed Wright on the left. The forward took on his defender, got to the by-line and crossed into the area, only for keeper Griffin McMaster to get to the ball just before Jordy Campbell.

In the 53rd minute, only a fine covering tackle by Lion's defender Travis Reimers on Jed Wright kept the striker from being one on one with McMaster.

Coach Paul Foster must have used the break to great effect as the Suns came out firing in the early stages of the half. Lions were on the back foot and their young defenders were being called on to defend at all costs.

Griffin McMaster was the next to be called upon, this time saving at the feet of Adam Bostock with the Sun's striker in on goals.

These missed opportunities would prove costly for the Suns for in the 60th minute, with their first real attack of the half, Lions took the lead.

Yiannis Symons won the ball in the middle of the park and passed to Josh Chelepy. Chelepy controlled the ball and hit a fine strike from 20 metres that Luke Winfield could only palm into the path of Jayce Gilchrist who struck home from an acute angle.

QLD LIONS 1 NORTH COAST SUNS 0

After a slow start to the half, Lions were growing in confidence and in the 67th minute, should have extended their lead.

James Rodden made space down the left and whipped in a great cross that Josh Chelepy only just failed to get on top of and the ball looped over the crossbar.

In the 75th minute Luke Wingfield made a fine save at the feet of Jayce Gilchrist after the keeper's clearance from a goal kick was headed back into the striker's path.

In the 85th minute, the Suns had a golden opportunity to level things up. Fine interplay in the middle of the park saw the ball fall kindly to Fraser Robinson on the right hand edge of the area. His strike went only just wide of Griffin McMaster's right hand upright.

Lion's midfielder Adam Read's strike on goals on the stroke of full time brought this entertaining game to an end with the Lions worthy winners.

FULL TIME

QLD LIONS 1 NORTH COAST SUNS 0

Caretaker coach Fernando Alves was delighted with his team's performance.

"It was the best performance the boys had put on so far. The idea behind the Summer League at Lions is to have a look at how some of our young players, players from our Junior and Senior colt sides, react to playing against older and more experienced players. With such a number of new and young players we've found difficult to get the boys to gel but today we got things right."

"We saw that in the second half, the Suns attacked us with a front three so we changed our diamond shape in midfield to a flat four. After the early pressure in the second half, we managed to score and hold them out. We should have had a couple of goals in the first half but they are a well organized side and I'm pleased we managed to get away with the points."

SUMMER LEAGUE 2003

Group 1 Round: 3

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Diff.	Pts
1. Palm Beach Sharks	3	3	0	0	8	3	5	9
2. Rochdale Rovers	3	2	1	0	8	5	3	6
3. Queensland Lions	3	2	1	0	7	4	3	6
4. North Coast Suns	3	2	1	0	4	2	2	6
5. South West Qld	3	0	3	0	3	9	-6	0
6. Redlands United	3	0	3	0	5	12	-7	0

Results for Round 3

Queensland Lions	1	North Coast Suns	0
Rochdale Rovers	5	South West Qld	1
Palm Beach Sharks	4	Redlands United	1

Group 2 Round: 3

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Diff.	Pts
1. Wynnum Wolves	3	2	1	0	7	5	2	6
2. Sunshine Coast Hawks	3	2	1	0	5	3	2	6
3. Easts Tigers	3	1	1	1	7	5	2	4
4. Peninsula Power	3	1	1	1	5	3	2	4
5. North Star	3	1	2	0	4	7	-3	3
6. Pine Rivers United	3	1	2	0	4	9	-5	3

Results for Round 3

North Star	2	Peninsula Power	1
Sunshine Coast Hawks	2	Pine Rivers United	0
Wynnum Wolves	4	Easts Tigers	1

PREMIERSHIP BIZARRIO

It's Nige and Derek here, from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarrio. Each week we give you the news and our views from around the grounds of the English Premier League.

Shock, horror! Leeds Utd hit rock bottom with a 6-1 thrashing on the South Coast home of Premier newbies, Pompey. The situation was looking awry last week when big Aussie, Dooks, was in another training ground spat with Monkey Heed Reid only a couple of weeks after the 2 had kissed and made up (following a previous training ground bust-up). The latest stoush resulted in Dooks being left home in the Pennines for the fateful visit to the south.

Tuesday saw the patience run out from Prof. "Rubber" Johnny McKenzie and new financial cohort, Trev "Brick Top" Birch, and Monkey Heed was given the arse. How fortunate for big Dooks as he was facing the prospect of donating 130 grand back into the Leeds coffers for his training ground taunting of Monkey Heed.

New caretaker manager, Eddie Grey told Dooks to forget it and get on with it. We wonder how many training sessions it will take before Dooks goes stark raving bonkers at Ed. It is blatantly obvious that

Dooks wants a ticket for the next train leaving Eiland Junction and is relishing a return to Parramatta Power in the near future.

So who's the next cab off the rank to fill the worst seat in football? Former defender and youth coach, Paul Hart has already turned it down, preferring to stay in the Nationwide League with cashless Notts Forest. Other potential suckers being touted around are WBA's Ginger Gary Megson and fellow carrot top and Saints gaffer Ginger Gordon Strachan. Why would anyone want to get involved with this toilet of a club? Even Derek and myself aren't interested in it!

The latest Leeds signing, Trev "Brick Top" Birch has revealed that he is solid from the neck up, stating that Leeds need to compete with the ManU's of this world, in competing for the corporate dollar and should build a new state of the art stadium. Haven't you looked at the balance sheet lately Brick Top? It reads 80 million squids in the red. We can't see this geezer lasting too long.

All in all, we feel a bit sorry for Monkey Heed, he was on a hiding to nothing. But we won't be feeling sorry for him for more than this sentence because, as we know in football, make a balls up of your

job and you will get a better one in a couple of months. Good luck Monkey Heed, that 850 grand for 8 months work is well worth the boot.

Following on from last week's story regarding the booze session on the town involving Robbing Fowler and a few of his Man City mates. This week it has been reported that the aeroplane blonde that Fowler was drooling over somehow succumbed to his advances.

Banana TV



Premiership Bizarrio

God knows how, as Fowler would have trouble stringing a sentence together in a compos mentis state, never mind being mullered out of his brains.

Seems that Fowler and stone sober mate, Steve McManaman, went back to her place for the obligatory roasting, after selling her the innate story that they were lost. She was obviously out of her tree as



Kevin Keegan: Man City's head

she fell for the worst line we've heard this year. Things didn't go well for Fowler, not only is he not scoring goals on the football field, he is also coming up short in the bedroom stakes.

The girl who's name is Sharon (no surprise there) complained that the slimy, cheating father of 3 daughters was a total let down when he pulled his strides down revealing to the Sharon that he is not scoring in the trouser dept either. When will serial quitter, Kev Keegan realise that this

salt snorting waste of money is finished (in more ways than one!).

Staying in the North of the country at Blackburn, let's take a look at Raging Graeme Souness' answer to his side's plummet down the league. Souey's solution to halt the slide is one that can only come from a Glaswegian.

Souey has taken his ragged troop to the legendary Gleneagles course for a few games of golf, but more importantly, he thinks the boys aren't drinking enough and will be tutoring the team on how to get as mullered as Robbing Fowler. Souey has stated that the only time the troops are together is at matches and training and some serious team bonding is required at the bar.

Let's hope you are getting 'em in all nite Souey. He is our kind of manager!

There endeth another filthy bizarrio week in the Premiership. You can tune in your computers each week, with the other couple of million around that globe, to www.bananatv.com for all the latest bollocks.

See you here next week!

Nige & Derek
Premiership Bizarrio

Victorian Chronicles



By Brendon Davis

Perth Fans - Best Behaved in NSL

Media groups are frequently quick to highlight the occasional misbehaviour of football fans at NSL matches.

So its appropriate to compliment the Perth glory crowd for their exemplary behaviour on Sunday where Perth hosted South Melbourne.

It was a hot day, 34 degrees with kick off at 3pm. Naturally many a beverage had been consumed.

As South walked down their race to a hot Joondalup they were clapped politely by the Perth supporters. In particular, Glory old boy Con Boutsianis was loudly applauded as he entered the arena.

At half time the South players were clapped off while after the match the South team was applauded and slapped on the back by many a Glory fan. Even referee Simon Micallef was clapped from the pitch by the Perth fans; maybe they appreciated their penalty while acknowledging Scott Tunbridge was unfortunate not to have been awarded his.

The sportsmanship exhibited by the Perth fans was widely discussed by the South players who genuinely appreciated the "sup-

port". The Glory fans on Sunday were truly a credit to their club, their state and the football code.

Likewise the post match dinner Perth arranged for the South players and officials was very much appreciated by all involved. If only the glory could have been a little more hospitable with the match result.

Too Hot For Football

The 3pm kick off at Joondalup, on a hot, humid 34 degree day was unnecessary and unwise.

It poses a health risk to the players, it is uncomfortable for the fans and is simply unnecessary.

It would be more sensible to play these matches at twilight or at night when conditions are more appropriate for football.

And it was beyond comprehension that one of Australia's best referees, Simon Micallef failed to stop the play even once for a water break despite the stifling Perth heat. Even more disappointing was the fury shown by a linesman on the shed side of the ground when a South stopped for a drink.

The linesman sought to deny the player water before engaging in an unnecessary and heated exchange with Steve Lourie of South.

Football in the Economist

The worlds most respected weekly economics and political journal is hardly a must read for many football fans.

But the prevailing Russian saga over the giant oil conglomerate, Yukos corporation could reverberate across the whole football world.

Yukos is one of the Russian oil conglomerates originating in the little known Russian town of

Nefteyugansk.

Its owned by Russias richest man, oil baron Mikhail Khodorkovsky who has been charged with tax and other offences involving \$1.4bn.

Readers are aware the football transfer market has been underwritten by another Russian oil tycoon, Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich.

The oil tycoons remain extremely unpopular in Russia which partly explains the determination of Abramovich to seek and gain social acceptance and popularity in Britain.

If the politicians in Russia nationalise oil assets which cripple Abramovich the implication for Chelsea could be horrific. Not only does Abramovich own the club, he has to fund the deficit and the incredibly high wages being paid to the many playing millionaires at Stamford Bridge each week.

Chelsea Football Club is incapable of meeting these expenses from their own relatively meagre revenue base.

So football officials might keep reading The Economist each week for a while.

Victorian Derby

The first of the two derbies takes place at Sunshine this week.

Despite their respective positions on the table, as with all Victorian derbies form means little with both clubs determined to secure Victorian supremacy.

As a prelude to the derby the clubs and their respective security officials have several meetings scheduled for the week.

Hopefully it's a great derby, a big crowd, an exciting match and no trouble. And hopefully the media will report the football rather than any off field antics.

MEETINGS HELD FOR APL

Secret meetings have been held in both Sydney and Melbourne last week as the new Australian Premier League looks set to kick-off next year.

At the moment not all clubs have had the green light assured that they will be in the new competition next year but new ASA chairman Frank Lowy has stated that the league will be revamped in more ways than one.

Big sponsorship and TV rights are set to be named as part of the new revamped league.

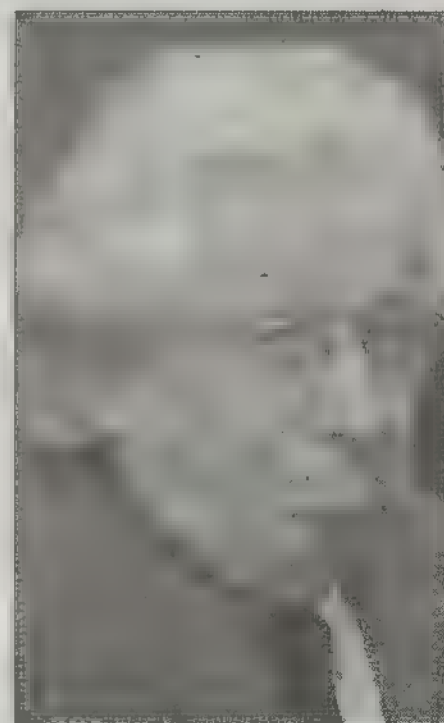
A ten-team competition has been rumoured to be up which means that there will be a few current NSL clubs that will ultimately miss the boat.

These meetings have been A-Classified with all clubs keeping a tight-lid on its findings but rest assured news will filter through on the new league soon.

Its believed that there will be a few new clubs that could enter the fold in the new APL next year, and there's sure to be one big surprise if that does eventuate.

The current NSL this season has been somewhat of a tough year to date with many clubs fielding under-strength sides but that's been due to the lack of revenue that's been involved in the game.

To better the future of the code, a cut down on teams choosing only the elite ones has been the key to making the APL unique next year.



The key to a revamped APL league - Frank Lowy.

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S O C C E R N O O S

Queenslanders chance to see the Young Socceroos

All those in Brisbane have a last chance to see the Young Socceroos in action before they head off to the UAE in December for the World Youth Championships. The game is THIS Friday at footballs home at Perry Park. Kick off 7pm GET TO THE GAME

Olyroos Olympic Qualifiers and Friendlies – JUST 6 WEEKS AWAY

The Olyroos will be in action right across the country in January including friendlies against Republic of Korea and the all important Olympic Qualifiers. Make sure you make an effort to get out and see the not too distant future stars of Aussie soccer. Remember 9 current Socceroos were involved with our last batch of Olyroos. THE FUTURE STARTS HERE

January 4 2004 Friendly vs Korea, Sydney (Venue TBA)
January 7 2004 Friendly vs Korea - Members Equity Stadium, Perth
OFC Olympic Qualifiers
January 14 2004 17:30pm vs Samoa- Sydney
January 16 2004 5pm vs Papua New Guinea Sydney
January 20 2004 7:00pm vs Solomon Islands Sydney
January 22 2004 17:30pm vs Fiji Sydney
January 26 2004 Playoff 1st Leg Sydney**
January 30 2004 Playoff 2nd Leg Auckland, New Zealand**

**Assuming that Australia and NZ win their groups. Venues to be confirmed ASAP. Venues are strongly rumoured to be in Sydney's soccer heartland but West more news as it comes to hand. A group from Melbourne will be heading up for the last qualifier vs Fiji and the final on Australia Day. If you are in Sydney or near by in Wollongong, Central Coast or Newcastle make your way down for all or some of the games. Itinerary for people wanting to attend all games and/or the final will be arranged shortly – should be a fun week or two of Aussie soccer across the continent so stay tuned.

Houllier for Australia: Je ne c'est pas pourquoi



Houllier for Oz???

By Mark van Aken

There are whispers running through the Australian soccer fraternity that Liverpool Manager Gerard Houllier is being sort to fill the role Australia's National Technical Director.

You know the one, the position that's been vacant since Les Scheinflug cleared out many moons ago. The role would be sharing some of the flack that Ange Postecoglou and Adrian Santrac have copped for the

performances of the Joys and Matildas this year. More importantly he is someone who would be helping them avoid the flack in the first place by providing a sound frame work around our national programs at all levels.

Gerard Houllier served as Technical Director for French soccer between 1990 and 1998. We are all aware of the successes that came to the French team at the World Cup in 98 and again at Euro 2000 in the neighbouring Low Countries of Europe,

completing an unprecedented World Cup-Euro double.

His contribution to the national program dissolved in the year that they tasted the ultimate triumph. Four years later, enough time for his personal touch to be wiped from the national program, they flopped at Japan-Korea 02, failing to qualify for the second round. So how much of the success and failures are attributable to Mr Houllier?

After a spell as assistant to legendary Les Blues star Michael Platini from 1988 to

1992, he claimed the top job after Platini's departure but failed to guide them to USA 94. This failure resulted in his resignation from the top job. From here he slipped into the singular role of Technical Director as well as coaching several junior sides including the Under 18 team that claimed the European title in 1996.

Before hitting the international scene he was operating at club level with lower division teams before taking the reins at top flight clubs like Lens and Paris St Germain, guiding the latter to the title in only his second season. His latest foray into club coaching has been with the famous Liverpool. Houllier joined the club in 1998 in strange circumstances, Co-managing the Merseysiders with existing boss and club legend Roy Evans. It was clear from the start that the dual management role would not work and after only a few months Evans moved on, leaving the Frenchman to take over the role outright.

Under Houllier Liverpool initially turned the corner from mid table also rans to perennial championship contenders. Contenders but not victors, something that is a major blight on the resume of the one-time Liverpool saviour turned sacked coach in waiting. After the 'Treble' in 2001 that included the FA, League and UEFA Cups, the Reds were giddy with delusions of grandeur of what their gallic gaffer would bring. As the next season opened there was little to challenge this optimism. They snared their fourth and fifth trophies within 6 months, defeating despised rivals Man U in the Charity Shield before accounting for German powerhouse and Champion's League winners

Bayern Munich to claim their second European Super Cup.

During the season near tragedy was to strike. Houllier suffered heart complications that saw him relinquish control of the squad to assistant Phil Thompson for large parts of the 2001-02 season. After his return the team performed well but failed to claim the much sort after title, finishing in second spot. The teams Champions League form in the next season saw them reach the second round of the tournament but fail to make any real impact. In subsequent years the team has entered each season promising so much and delivering little.

The natives have become restless of late on the banks of the Mersey. Liverpool, after a much publicised off-season acquisition of Socceroo Harry Kewell, were supposed to finally be riding on the crest of a wave in '03-04. Instead they have so far been dumped at the bottom of the sea. The team sits just inside the top half of the English table with 5 wins and 2 draws from their 12 starts.

A season that was supposed to deliver a title is now a struggle to win a spot in the Europe's second tier UEFA Cup. For a 4 time champion of Europe, so long starved of success, this is not nearly good enough.

And this is where the rumours of the Australian job apparently surface. Houllier has been lauded as a tactical genius, the mastermind behind recent French success. Critics including fellow countryman and Premier League Manager Arsene Wenger question his footballing philosophies. Houllier's Liverpool are often accused of playing bland football, attacking only

on the break. While he isn't in the class of Liverpool's greatest Manager Bill Shankley, Houllier has brought 6 trophies to Anfield in 4 completed seasons and can probably point to this success when being criticised. Also it is this tactical know how and patience that has often been lacking in the green and gold version of the game for so long.

Houllier can also hang his hat on his clever talent spotting. While Liverpool haven't tasted ultimate success he has worked on what is, in comparison to competitors like Man U and Chelsea, a tight budget. While Houllier has spent 105 million pounds on his squad over 5 years, he has gone a long way to balancing this, selling off some 62 million pounds of Liverpool talent.

While exuding a friendly temperament, Houllier can lay down the law behind closed doors. German international Christina Ziege incurred his wrath after openly questioning the boss' coaching style in the media, ultimately leading to his transfer. Local hero Robbie Fowler was also moved on after a training ground scrap with management that festered for some months before ultimately moving to Leeds.

Media reports label Houllier ideal as he has an existing relationship with Frank Farnna. Both he and Frank were part of the Technical Committee observing last years World Cup. How deep the relationship runs is anyone's guess but the association is there.

It is quizzical however that we are ready to swoop on an official only when and if he's sacked. It's like getting the last crusty and burnt Dim Sim at the local take away that's been sitting there

for hours because no one else wants it. Not that Houllier wouldn't be in demand should Liverpool give him his marching orders. It does however seem like we would be going for damaged goods - Sacked as French Manager, sacked at Liverpool. Then again we would hiring him as a Technical Director and not a manager and looking at his past this is perhaps a role that best meets his skill set. On top of this plenty of good coaches have been sacked at one stage or another.

Either way, as you read this talk of Houllier is nothing more than rumour. One questions how Houllier's dodgy ticker would handle walking into the ASA in its present state? We as a nation may be up on manslaughter charges for sending a medically fragile man into the never regions of Australian soccer management. Another point is Houllier has yet to consider anything other than Liverpool's next match against Steaua Bucharest let alone uprooting his life Down Under, to take control of an entire national program.

His first port of call might be working a deal with the Italian government. A 60 Minutes report this week labelled West Australian Megan Gale 'Italy's hottest commodity'. Megan is a bonafide born and bred Aussie Super Model who resides in the Mediterranean country. Perhaps we could arrange a swap for the man we try to claim as our own, Inter Milan star Christian Vieri. In fact let's not stop there, Vieri grew up in Oz and thus has some real connection. Gale's links are only superficial so we should go for a full-fledged Azzurri star - Francesco Totti anyone?

CARDOZO BREAKS BARRON SPELL

One of Australian soccer's most lethal strikers, Pablo Cardozo, two weeks ago broke his run of bad luck with scoring by hitting the back of the net against the Wollongong Wolves in their Round 8 clash at WIN Stadium.



'Gooooaaalllll' - Pablo Cardozo shown scoring his first goal for Olympic against the Wolves.

Not only was it Pablo's first goal, but it also ended Olympic's losing streak which was a delight for many of the 'hard to please' Olympic fans.

Having signed from the Parramatta Power last season, Cardozo has found it tougher this year in the goal-scoring department.

Many factors however have made it that much tougher for the former Australian International, one being the fact that the side has chopped and changed for the past nine-weeks for the 30-year-old.

The gun striker has bagged 119 goals in his 291 matches, nine shy of the big three-hundred, an amazing achievement.

"It's been tough scoring this season. It has been frustrating but every striker goes through a slump. I want to score as many goals as I can for Olympic and hope that we can reach the top six come end of the National League season".

Asked about whether going overseas again was option, Pablo replied, "I was on the verge of leaving in January for Asia but the NSL competition is almost half-way through its season. I want to play out the season with Olympic and look towards heading over there after the NSL year is over".

Younger brother Richie has also staked his claim in trying to break into Olympic's first team squad after he was included for the first time on the substitute's bench against the Wolves.

Although not used, the U17 Joeys international hopes to one-day play his trade abroad like older brother Pablo did.

Viduka still

"happy" at Leeds

Mark Viduka returned to training with Leeds United just hours before the club sacked manager Peter Reid it was stated last week in the English press.

The Socceroo striker and the Elland Road boss had fallen out recently, with Viduka left out of the line-up for the club's past two games and fined a week's wages for two disciplinary breaches.

But speaking to AAP after training on Monday, the same afternoon Leeds lost patience with Reid because it is last in the Premiership, Viduka said he is still happy to be playing for the club.

"I'm used to it," Viduka said of the pressure of the club's poor position. "It's part of the game. Last year we were under a lot of pressure as well and we're under it again."

"Pressure-wise I'm used to it. It's life, it's football life over here. Nobody pays you nothing for nothing. At the moment I'm rapt here, I'm happy." The Australian rugby league team, fresh from beating Great Britain 22-18 with a last-gasp try on Saturday in the first Test at Wigan, was also training nearby, and Viduka added that he would much rather be playing soccer than rugby league.

"I don't wish I was in their position after the hits they got," he said. "It was



Mark Viduka is still "happy" at Leeds.

good to see them the other night do well. It was great to see the green and gold beat the Poms. It's difficult because the English want to beat Australia in the league because they're just too good."

And asked if he would have liked to have watched the match at the JJB Stadium, Viduka joked that he might have entertained thoughts of attending if he had had more notice about not playing in the 1-6 loss to Portsmouth.

STRIKING IT RICH WITH THE AIS

By Mark Stavroulakis

Established in 1981, the superior AIS soccer program has for the past 22-years been the pinnacle of any soccer development program in this country.

Set in the heartland of our nations capital in Canberra, the AIS has certainly lived up to both its main aim for its current scholarship holders at the Institute.

What aim you say? To identify and develop outstanding young talent for the National U20 Youth team with possible progression to the Olympic and senior Socceroo squads.

This years Young Socceroo squad had a massive 12 AIS graduates from a squad of 22 - an enormous achievement for any development program. These players are:

Nathan Coe (Inter Milan) - Mark Milligan (Northern Spirit) - David Tarka (Nottingham Forest) - Wayne Heath (Brisbane Strikers) - Carl Valeri (Inter Milan) - Matthew McKay (Brisbane Strikers) - Jobe Wheelhouse (Newcastle United) - Jonathon Richter (Northern Spirit) - Dustin Wells (Wollongong Wolves) - Anthony Danze (Perth Glory) - Alex Brosque (Marconi Stallions) and stand-by player Franco Parisi (Sydney United).

Head coach, Steve 'Rocky' O'Connor has been the head man behind the AIS' controls since '96 and has seen a number of talented players come and go.

The former Socceroo who represented the green and gold 46 times and played 289 national league games which included five championship medals and one cup medal has moulded his troops in true 'AIS' style.



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

At the moment the 2003 squad looks the goods with many potential stars hoping to land a big contract in the next year or two.

U17 Joeys stars Adam Casey, Dez Giraldo and Matthew Deegan, Billy Celestki, Justin Pasfield, Brett Studman and Philip Makrys are just some of the names to keep a lookout for in the near future.

The recent success rate of AIS players making the final Young Socceroo squad has only furthered the theory that youngsters that go through the Institute pathway have a clear future in football.

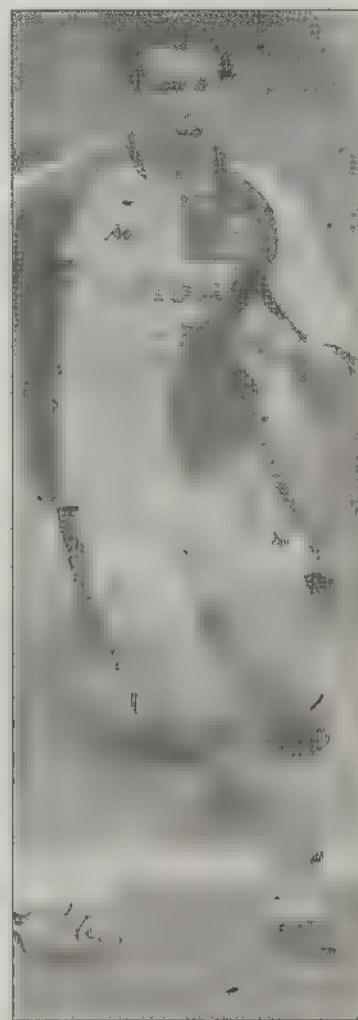
Socceroo coach Frank Farina (once apart of the AIS) best said it last week in an interview with 'The Age', when he launched a stinging attack on agents and parents who pushed their kids in moving abroad as soon as possible.

Farina believed that the players themselves would develop better if they stayed in the Australian system and went through Institutes such as the AIS program before going onto first team action in the National League.

Many promising young Australian stars have by-passed the opportunity of playing in the NSL and taking part in various academy programs such as the AIS, NSWIS, VIS, QAS, SASI and have taken up positions in youth squads overseas sitting through as third or fourth string players.

Rumour had it once that the AIS was to cease any soccer program, but fortu-

nately for this soccer nation, this did not come into fruition thus giving every Australian soccer fan more to smile about - the thrill of seeing better Australian players develop.



Brett Emerton has been one of the finest AIS graduates ever to come out from Canberra.

KIWI DELIGHT FOR MARTIN

By Mark Stavroulakis

It's one of the hardest routes to take in any youngster's footballing career but relocating to another country can always place a burden on any players future.

20-year-old sharpshooter and recognized striker Tallan Martin has made just that move from his native home Australia across the Trans-Tasman to New Zealand.

Yet another tough obstacle for any Australian is also travelling to uncharted waters, namely New Zealand, a known sporting rival of Australia.

Martin, once an AIS and NSWIS graduate was picked up by Kingz coach Ken Dugdale for the start of the new National League season.

Dugdale was impressed by the young striker's pace and his willingness to put away goals that he signed him on a year deal.

"Although we aren't going too well at the moment, there is a positive feel about the place. Ken is a great coach and has put faith in me and I feel I am almost back to my best"

"We are starting to gel, after injuries and visa issues have prevented us getting our best eleven on the park. We've been unlucky at times and had the bounce of the

ball gone our way, who knows what we could have done against Perth and the Power? We are a better side than our ladder position shows".



Tallan Martin is hoping for a huge season with the Kingz.

On the verge of signing for the Wolves, Martin decided against the deal and labelled Wollongong's pre-season hut out as a 'military camp'.

Once scouted by Dutch giants Ajax and Feyenoord, Tallan has hopes to one day grace the pitches in Europe and will hope that with Dugdale's connections in Europe, his childhood dream could become a reality.

But until he reaches that, the youngster has his mind set on trying to make Frank Farina's U23's squad bound for Athens next year.

Dugdale believes that this could become a reality.

"I think Tallan can easily make his way back onto the international scene in regards to the Olympics squad in Athens, its up to him and his performances he puts in with us this year".

At the moment, the Kingz sit buried on the foot of the NSL ladder, not a pretty sight for any Kiwi supporter and there's also been the speculated rumour that the club could fold before the year due to financial difficulties.

Whatever the case and history holds for the Kingz, Tallan Martin will be using this year as a building block in getting back to his old best - scoring goals.

PETRIE: SPIRIT'S SCOTTISH GEM



Stewart Petrie: The Scottish star shown in action with the Spirit while (insert) shown during his Dunfermline days.

By Luke Doherty

In 1996 Stewart Petrie slotted a penalty that secured Dunfermline promotion to Scotland's Premier League.

Three weeks ago he smashed home just the second hat-trick scored by a Northern Spirit player in the club's history. It seems the Spirit have picked up a Scottish gem that's getting better with age.

The Spirit signed Petrie on a free transfer from Dunfermline at the end of last season in a bid to get some more strike power into the attack.

The former storeman, who was raised in the old sea port town of Dundee, says that after speaking to his now team-mate Ian Ferguson, who had transferred from the Scottish Premier League the summer before, he knew the deal was exactly what he wanted.

"I spoke to Fergie (Ian Ferguson) and asked him about the possibility of coming out here to play.

Then I spoke to an agent in New Zealand and he said that there were a few clubs interested in Scotland and in Holland, but Sydney is the best city in the world.

The deal went all quiet for a few months after I made my initial inquiry but after that it all happened so quickly and I suppose it was better that way because I didn't have the chance to think long about it... I just went."

He played for Dunfermline for 10 years after being bought from

Forfar for £60,000 as a ram-paging 22 year old, and in that time he clocked up over 300 appearances for the Pars.

But his days with Dunfermline were running out and at the start of 2003, with six months still to run on his contract, Petrie decided to end his tenure with the club.

The club arranged a testimonial match for their long serving striker and 4,500 well wishers and fans showed up to thank Petrie for his loyalty.

"It was great there were a lot of past players there and a fair crowd turned up to watch it."

"Obviously it was very emotional because you have a lot of ties there and

"But when the opportunity came to move to Sydney, it didn't take me long to decide that I wanted to go."

He jumped at the chance to enjoy what he describes as the "best city in the world".

Packing up the family wasn't easy though. He and Cathy, his wife of two and a half years, have two young daughters aged five and seven but he has found an ally in another compatriot - The Spirit's English defender Julian Watts.

"It was hard to settle in here at first because you are so far away from home but having Julian here has been great."

"His wife helped Cathy a lot and they do things together so it's been really good."

contract after this season - that thoughts about retirement haven't entered his head.

But before he gets to ahead of himself he knows that it's also a case of the body being fit enough but he says he wants to play until at least the end of 2005/2006 season.

Scottish footballers seem to have the gift of longevity. You only have to look at the likes of Scots' Gary Macallister and Gordon Strachan as examples of that.

Macallister, now manager of 1st division Coventry, was 35 when he was the driving force behind a Liverpool midfield that clinched three trophies in 2001.

And Strachan, now manager of Southampton, was playing the best football of his career when he went to Leeds United in his 30's.

Petrie seems to be following in the footsteps of the two Scottish soccer greats, closer than he realises, as he reveals that being the manager of a team is on his agenda when he finally does hang up the boots.

"Yeah I've done all my coaching badges in Scotland," says Petrie, "I pick up bits from Lawrie (McKinnon) and the assistant coaches and the other managers that I've played under. I'd really like to get into youth football."

So with the list of achievements the Petrie has racked up so far, who's to say he can't?

"I spoke to Fergie (Ian Ferguson) and asked him about the possibility of coming out here to play.

Then I spoke to an agent in New Zealand and he said that there were a few clubs interested in Scotland and in Holland, but Sydney is the best city in the world". - Stewart Petrie

Dunfermline was only about an hour away from where I grew up."

"But every professional will tell you that when you train all week you want to be playing on the weekend and by the half way point of my last season I'd only played half a dozen out of 20 games."

"I wasn't playing regular first team football and decided it was time to move on."

"I still had six months to run on my contract but I couldn't move until the January transfer window opened."

But the wives of the two aren't the only ones who have gotten to know each other better. Watts is Petrie's golf partner and Petrie admits that there is a little bit of UK rivalry between the two on the fairways.

"Yeah there's just a touch of that," says Petrie with a hint of mischief in his voice, "It's all for England."

"The score is fairly even at the moment but the loser has to buy the beers."

And although he has enjoyed a stellar career he admits that at 33 and with a further year to run on his

Kingz In Financial Struggle

Football Kingz director Ted Midlane has admitted the club could struggle to see out the season.

Still winless, the Kingz are struggling to pay bills from week-to-week after losing Sky as a major backer.

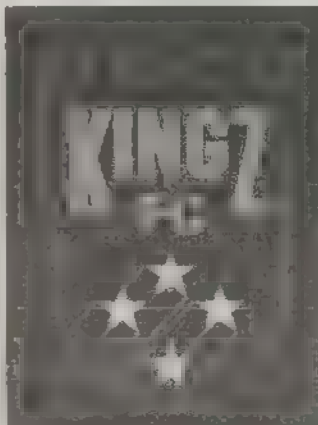
"We've got a budget to pay our expenses and we have to find the money."

We are confident we will be able to source the money as we go through the season," Midlane told the *Sunday Star-Times*.

"It helps if you win. It makes it easier to pick up sponsorship."

"We have gone this far and it would be a travesty if

we were to fail now. (It is) always a possibility. We didn't have to worry about



finding the money when Sky were running us."

The Kingz have so far

picked up no points and have lost every one of their home matches - a place where the side should have picked up some points.

The Collingwood Warriors, Carlton and the Gippsland Falcons had followed the same fate by tumbling out of the National League due to financial constraints - the Kingz could face a similar fate if things do not improve.

Regardless of this season, the ASA's new plan to revamp the National League will certainly be a huge test for the Kiwi side along with many other NSL clubs as the ante will be upped dramatically.

Wells: Aussie World Cup squad coming together

Dustin Wells says Australia's U20 World Cup squad gained a lot of confidence from their final game against South Korea in the 4-nation tournament.

Australia drew 0-0 with the host nation, which finished the competition as winners.

"We did very well in the first-half," Wollongong Wolves midfielder Wells told trialfootball.com last week.

"We pressed them well, controlled the midfield and made some good chances for the boys upfront."

"The second-half was a bit different. A lot of changes were made and basically the Koreans fielded a completely different line up."

"But even from that, we took positives as a few boys who are underdone fitness-wise were able to get in some work."

Wells was given an hour by Australia coach Ange Postecoglou against the

South Koreans and says he is pleased with his form.

"Midfield is the most competitive area in the squad. There's a lot of quality battling for three or four spots, so the heat's on."

"I thought I did well against the Koreans. Things clicked with Carl Valeri and we gave them some problems."

"I was able to get on the end of a cross from Carl early on, but I couldn't get my header on target."

Australia return to Sydney for games against Malaysia and the Queensland state team before heading off to the UAE for the World Cup.

"Everyone involved are very pleased with the preparation," added Wells. "Every game, every training session we're improving as a team."

"By the time the first game comes round against the Czechs, we'll be ready for them."



Wolves youngster Dustin Wells has predicted that the U20's will do well in the up-coming World Cup in the UAE.

National Soccer League

After Round 9

After Round 9	TOTAL							PTS	HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A		
PERTH GLORY	8	6	1	1	1	18	11	19	2	2	0	0	4	0	6	4	1	1	14	11		
PARRAMATTA POWER	9	5	2	1	0	20	6	17	4	3	1	0	14	1	4	2	1	1	6	4		
MARCONI STALLIONS	9	4	3	2	0	11	9	15	6	3	2	1	7	5	3	1	1	1	4	4		
SOUTH MELBOURNE	8	4	2	2	1	15	3	14	3	2	0	1	6	2	5	2	2	1	9	1		
NORTHERN SPIRIT	8	4	0	4	1	16	12	12	4	2	0	2	11	8	4	2	0	2	5	4		
SYDNEY UNITED	8	3	3	2	1	6	4	12	4	2	1	1	5	3	4	1	2	1	1	1		
NEWCASTLE UTD	9	3	3	3	1	12	13	12	5	2	2	1	7	5	3	1	1	2	5	8		
BRISBANE STRIKERS	8	3	2	3	1	7	8	11	3	1	2	0	3	2	5	2	0	3	4	6		
ADELAIDE UNITED	5	2	2	1	1	5	6	9	3	1	1	1	2	4	2	1	1	0	3	2		
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	8	2	2	4	0	6	13	9	5	1	1	3	4	8	3	1	1	1	2	5		
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	8	2	1	5	0	6	17	7	4	0	1	3	2	9	4	2	0	2	4	8		
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	8	2	0	6	1	6	15	6	4	1	0	3	3	7	4	1	0	3	3	8		
KINGZ	7	0	1	6	1	7	17	1	4	0	0	4	3	10	3	0	1	2	4	7		

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 3
(N Arrarte 29', M Hawrysiuk 41', 54')

PARRAMATTA POWER 1
(A Ceccoli 33')

Referee: Brett Hugo. Crowd: 2,085 Venue: WIN Stadium.

Teams: **WOLLONGONG WOLVES:** Crews, Dragas, Timpano, Hughes, Hawrysiuk, Lyons, Arrarte, Young (Majurovski 90'), Van Bentum, Blake, Nwagazi.

Subs Not Used: Austin, DeGiovanniello, Whalan (gk).

PARRAMATTA POWER: Bolton, Ceccoli, Colosimo, Beauchamp, Thompson (Zorbas 60'), Dodd (Pantelis 68'), Gumprecht, Milicic, O'Grady (Buonavoglia 46'), Sobczyk, Elrich.

Subs Not Used: Vukovic.

Cautions: N Arrarte (SU) 72', S Colosimo (PP) 41'.

Red Cards: S Colosimo (PP) 72'.

NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
SYDNEY UNITED 0

Referee: Perry Mur. Crowd: 3,672 Venue: EnergyAustralia Stadium.

Teams: **NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Perosh, Deans, A Griffiths, Thomas (Masi 62'), Owens (Wilson 89'), R Griffiths, Johnson, Tsekenis, Blagojevic, Brown, Middleby.

Subs Not Used: Mitchell, Kennedy (gk).

SYDNEY UNITED: Reddy, Haliti (Heffernan 84'), Cunico, Vrkic, Huxley, Parisi (Babic 63'), Collina, Markovic, Ivanic (B Santalab 74'), Rudan, Dourmanis.

Subs Not Used: Necevski (gk).

Cautions: Nil.

MARCONI STALLIONS 1
(N Carle 68')

BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

Referee: Simon Micallef. Crowd: 2,439 Venue: Marconi Stadium.

Teams: **MARCONI STALLIONS:** Turnbull, Longo, Costanzo, Casserly (Bell 61'), Last, Gibson (Anabalon 46'), Thwaite, Webb, Harris (Brodie 53'), Carle, Renaud.

Subs Not Used: Alogde Iis (gk).

BRISBANE STRIKERS: Higgins, Dodd, Stefanutto, McCloughan (Webber 85'), McLaren, Grierson, Brownlie (Rose 69'), Brain, Pilic, Moon (Fitzsimmons 73'), Morely.

Subs Not Used: Watson (gk).

Cautions: R Brownlie (BS) 80'.

Red Cards: S McLaren (BS) 20'.

ADELAIDE UNITED 1
(M Kemp 19')

PERTH GLORY 4
(T Pondeljak 15', 92', D Mori 16', B Despotovski 49')

Referee: M Breeze. Crowd: 13,096 Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium.

Teams: **ADELAIDE UNITED:** Scarsella, Alagich, Rees, Goulding, Valkanis, Alosi (Pellegriano 82'), Veart, Vidmar, Lozanovski (Terminello 77'), Demourtzidis (Savic 46').

Subs Not Used: Bajic (gk).

PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Horsley (Mrdja 89'), Bingley, Hassell, Murphy, Miller, Despotovski (Fana 82'), North, Byrnes, Pondeljak, Mon (Coyne 89').

Subs Not Used: Matassa (gk).

Cautions: C Veart (AU) 40', T Pondeljak (PG) 82'.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2
(H Ishida 10', P Cardozo 36')

KINGZ 2
(J Rowley 3', G Souris og 45')

Referee: Ben Williams. Crowd: 2,398 Venue: OKI Jubilee Oval.

Teams: **SYDNEY OLYMPIC:** Hughes, Souris, Kohler, Juric, Schirripa (Halpin 52'), Fyfe, Cardozo, Augerinos (Bakis 85'), Goutzioulis, Ishida Caravella.

Subs Not Used: Karlovic, Moss (gk).

KINGZ: Nicholson, Midtsian (Seaman 75'), Tambouras, Jackson, Burton, Campbell, Ngata, Rowley, Donoso, Schjerven, Harries (Coombes 68'). Subs Not Used: Martin, Wylie (gk).

Cautions: I Fyfe (SO) 38', Z Caravella (SO) 60', G Goutzioulis (SO) 64', P Cardozo (SO) 73', C Jackson (FK) 10', E Schjerven (FK) 27', P Harries (FK) 60'.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0

SOUTH MELBOURNE 5
(M Panopoulos 14', P Trimball 22', 34', V Coveny 39', M Curcija 89')

Referee: Angelo Nardi. Crowd: 6,200 Venue: Knights Stadium.

Teams: **MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:** Tomich, Zilic, R Vargas, Kovacic, Sabljak (Razov 46'), Erdogan, Leyer, A Vargas, Fa'Arodo (Natsioulas 30'), Pelikan, Waite. Subs Not Used: Marth, Zilic (gk).

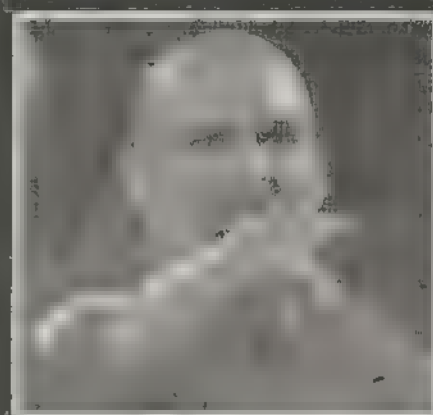
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Galekovic, Osman, Panopoulos (Sarkies 59'), Kovacevic, Coveny, Trimball, Boutsianis (Tunbridge 70'), Stergiopoulos, Laune, Curcija, Poutakidis (Recchia 86').

Subs Not Used: Theoklitos (gk).

Cautions: A Vargas (MK) 23', H Fa'Arodo (MK) 26', N Waite (MK) 52', I Erdogan (MK) 63', R Vargas (MK) 65', M Panopoulos (SM) 17', S Poutakidis (SM) 67'.

Red Cards: A Vargas (MK) 54'.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Nahuel Arrarte
Wollongong Wolves

The talented midfielder was devastating against the Power last week covering almost every inch of grass at WIN Stadium.

Both in attack and defence, Nahuel was everywhere, he also managed to score a brilliant sole goal that kick started the night's proceedings which saw the Wolves triumph over hot-shots Parramatta.

ROUND 10

Fri 21-11-03

Newcastle Utd vs Sydney Olympic

Sat 22-11-03

Brisbane Strikers vs Parramatta Power

Sun 23-11-03

Football Kingz vs Marconi Stallions

Northern Spirit vs Sydney United

Wollongong Wolves vs Perth Glory

South Melbourne vs Adelaide Utd

Melbourne Knights - Bye

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
MILICIC Ante	Parramatta Power	7
COVENY Vaughan	Sth Melbourne	7
MORI Damian	Perth Glory	6
PELIKAN Anthony	Melbourne Knights	5
PETRE Stewart	Northern Spirit	5
DODD Travis	Parramatta Power	5
PONDELJAK TOM	Perth Glory	5

BYE - NORTHERN SPIRIT

**WATCH
THIS SPACE**

YOUNG SOCCEROOS SPECIAL COMING SOON

As part of the Young Socceroos U20 World Cup assault in the UAE at the end of the month ABSW will be running a special double colour page spread on the team squad and head-shots of our future stars.

ABSW will also provide you (the readers) up-to-date information on the Young Roos tough schedule thanks to our friends at ASA.

Can Ange's lads do one better than our best ever effort in '99, Come on the Aussies!!!

True blue collectables

Finally Australia has a memorabilia company that specialises in Soccer! *True blue collectables*, a Sydney based company, is proud to announce that it has agreed with Harry Kewell to be his sole and EXCLUSIVE producer of his memorabilia in Australia.

This is fantastic news for Kewell, Liverpool and all Soccer fans as it will guarantee authenticity of Harry's signature to ensure you get what you pay for.

It also assures that you will be receiving a quality product produced using only acid-free matt boards and timber mouldings that live up to Harry Kewell's own high standards.

True blue collectables will be producing a stunning range of items catering for all Soccer fans and as they are the exclusive producer, you can save by buying direct from the manufacturer. You will not be disappointed.



Harry Kewell seen here with 'True blue collectables' Michael Dever.

With Harry now considered one of the top players in the World, it makes his memorabilia a "must have" for the discerning collector and Soccer fanatics.

This year saw Harry transfer from the only club he has known since he was 16 years old to the side he dreamt of as a child, Liverpool.

He also scored in both of Australia's monumental victories versus England and Jamaica, including the

game winner in the latter. In July 2003, Harry turned down advances and big money offers from Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea to pursue his dream. He now proudly wears the famous red jersey of the most successful Football side in English history, Liverpool.

All of Harry's memorabilia is fully licensed by *True blue collectables* including a Certificate of Authenticity with an image of the signing, as

well as A Tag authenticity.

A-Tag is a 3rd party organisation that attend all of the signings with Harry and add technology, including microchips and laser foils, to the memorabilia.

This is your assurance that the item is genuine. It also protects your investment by being able to register your purchase on a nation wide database.

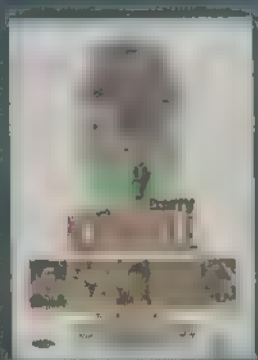
True blue collectables is very excited to be able to bring you some Special pieces of Soccer history.

To be also salutes Harry, as he becomes a world-renowned athlete and superstar. Along with this meteoric rise, *True blue collectables* has now made available some simply magnificent memorabilia that will be a showpiece for generations to come.

See on this Page below for our Special Christmas offers.

If it isn't *True blue collectables*, it isn't.

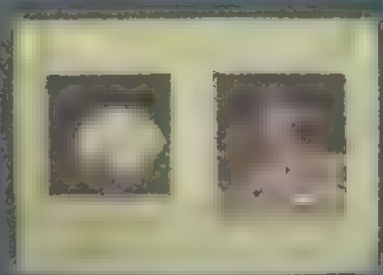
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Australia's 1974 World Cup Reunion Dinner



Ernie Campbell with Jimmy Rooney holding a 1974 World Cup plaque.

Ernie Campbell, played in the 1974 World Cup Finals as an attacking midfielder although at Club level, (A.P.I.A. and Marconi), was an outstanding striker.

Ernie who today is 52 years old made his debut for Australia back in 1972 against Israel in Melbourne. The then red-headed lethal striker represented Australia 50 times between 1972 and 1976. Today, Ernie earns his living as a Sales Representative.

Jimmy Rooney, a former Scot and today aged 57, debut for Australia in 1971 against the touring England F.A. side at the old Sydney Sports Ground, (now the Sydney Football Stadium).

Wee Jimmy was a dynamic, unyielding, ball-playing midfielder, who was capped 10 times for Australia. Jimmy rates Australia's third and last 1974 World Cup qualifier match against South Korea, played in Hong Kong, as his most unbelievable experience in Soccer.



Adrian ('Noddy') Alston with John Warren.

Adrian Alston, Australia's aerial striker, was tagged by his team-mates 'Noddy' for his incredible marksmanship in the air. The lanky Alston was Australia's leading goalscorer with most of his goals nailing the target with headers. He arrived in Australia in 1969 from Preston North End, England, and made his debut for Australia the very same year against the touring National team from Greece.

Noddy played for South Coast United and St George-Budapest for almost seven years before departing to play in England, then later had a season in the National American Soccer League with Tampa Bay Rowdies. Today the always jesting former International goal-ace, is aged 55, and is employed as an Integration Sports Officer based on the South Coast of NSW.

Johnny Warren, captained Australia from October 1967, at the tender age of just 23. Made his International debut in 1965 as a striker, but played most of his career as a hard-tackling, goalscoring central midfielder. Aged 60, Warren for the past year is battling cancer, and today still works as a television and radio Soccer analyst. Easily one of Australia's greatest-ever players, made his debut with Sydney Club side Canterbury Marrickville at the age of 15 then went on to play 14 consecutive years with St George-Budapest.

Last Thursday evening at the plush Italian reception lounge La Montage based at Leichhardt in Sydney, Australia's historic 1974 World Cup squad assembled for a Reunion Dinner attended by almost 500 adoring fans.

This glittering, nostalgic evening was the brainchild and produced by former national coach Rale Rasic.

Emotions reached fever pitch as dinner guests enjoyed the golden opportunity of sighting their soccer heroes after a lapse of some 30 years.

Rale Rasic had organised to reassemble into Sydney almost his entire

By John Gormley
Special Feature

1974 squad as the players streamed into Sydney from Adelaide, Melbourne, Darwin and with a special guest flown in from New Zealand.

That special guest was Malcolm MacKay, the son of the late Jimmy MacKay, Australia's heroic and wiry midfielder.

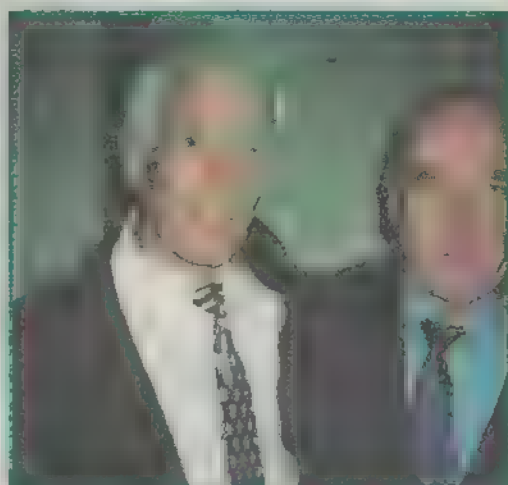
For it was Jimmy who on the evening of November 13, 1973 rifled a 30m drive into South Korea's net to score Australia's sole and winning goal in Hong Kong that sent our National

Team into a World Cup finals for the first and only time.

To mark this wonderful occasion, Rasic had designed and crafted magnificent black, marble plaques embossed with a golden replica of the World Cup which he presented to each individual member of the historic squad.

This week, on this page ABSW presents to our readers some photos and statistics of our soccer heroes, how they look and where they are today.

ABSW and its readers salutes Rale Rasic and Australia's 1974 World Cup squad.



Bobby Hogg with Jimmy Fraser.

Bobby Hogg was drafted to St George-Budapest from Scotland as an attacking midfielder. Made his debut in the National team in 1972 against the touring Scottish side Dundee in the match played at Adelaide where Australia lost 1-2 against the fulltime professionals. Bobby played as an attacking left full-back for Australia, but horrendously broke his leg just prior to the 1974 World Cup Finals. Today at the age of 56 Bobby is semi-retired and living in Adelaide, but occasionally does some maintenance work on a large property up in Darwin.

Jimmy Fraser, historically one of Australia's all-time great goalkeepers, and unquestionably one of the main reasons why Australia made it to her first, and only, World Cup Finals in 1974 Jimmy made his debut for Australia in 1973 against Bulgaria played in Adelaide. Today aged 55, Jimmy is Marconi's NSL goal-keeping coach as well as runs his own specialised Goalkeeping Academies from the South Coast of NSW as well as in Sydney.

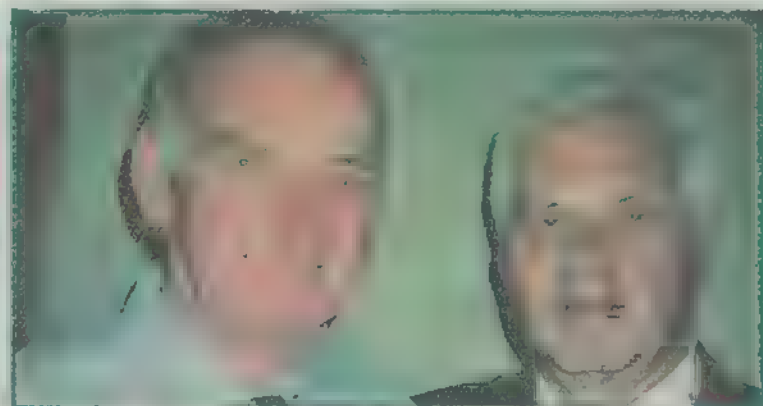


Atti Abonyi and Bobby Hogg.

Atti Abonyi, a lethal right-footed ball-playing striker, made his debut with the National team in 1967 against the crack touring side, Scotland. The extremely slender-built goal-ace, scored no less than 36 goals for Australia.

Abonyi made his debut in First grade with Melbourne side Hungaria before St George-Budapest moved in and snapped him up back in 1968. Atti's deadly right boot soon earned him the tag of 'Penalty King'. In July 1969, it was Abonyi's savagely-taken penalty which earned Australia a shock 1-0 win over the star-studded National team of Greece at the Sydney Cricket Ground. A qualified tailor by trade, Atti today aged 57 still prefers to work and owns and runs a large linen laundry service in Coffs Harbour.

Bobby Hogg (see photo No 4)



Ray Baartz with National Coach Rale Rasic.

Ray Baartz, one of Australia's all-time greats with that lethal left foot, as a teenager was graded into the great Manchester United's Youth team in the mid 60s and played alongside Brian Kidd. Hugely missing Australia's climate and beaches, Baartz returned to Sydney to play for the star-studded side Hakoah. Born and raised in Newcastle, Ray made his debut for Australia in 1967 against the touring National team of Scotland which had playing for them Manchester United's current long-serving Alex Ferguson.

This ace goalscorer Baartz, represented Australia on 58 occasions, in a brilliant career brought to an abrupt halt in 1974 just before the World Cup Finals kicked off. Ray was savagely chopped down with a karate blow across the throat in a 'friendly match' against touring national team of Uruguay, played at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

This great Australian international warrior nostalgically remarked to ABSW last Thursday night "I relished the opportunity to play for Australia. You just cannot substitute playing for your country". Today aged 56, Ray Baartz owns and runs a Sports Store in Newcastle at Broadmeadows.

Rale Rasic, was appointed coach of the National team of Australia in 1970. The former youth coach of Victorian side J.U.S.T., was brought to Sydney to coach St George-Budapest in 1971 and in 1972 moved to takeover the Marconi team. A former fullback with Sydney side Yugal and then Footscray, Rasic was sole architect behind last Thursday evening's sentimental World Cup Reunion Dinner. In 1974, Rale gained instant international recognition when Australia qualified for the World Cup Finals in Munich, in the then West Germany.



Ray Baartz, Johnny Watkiss, Johnny Warren.

These three magnificent former Australian Internationals, must unquestionably rate as three of Australia's five time 'All Great Soccer Legends'.

Not only were all these three great goalscorers, but hard-working warriors.

Johnny Watkiss, the oldest of this 'Terrific Triplet', today aged 62, made his debut for Australia in 1965 against North Korea. A Canterbury Marrickville Junior, Johnny Watkiss burst into the First grade in 1957 as a powerful striker. Watkiss has incredibly represented Australia not only as a striker, but central midfielder as well as a centre-back. In 1969 in Australia's final World Cup qualifier in the 1-1 draw against Israel, it was none other than the great Johnny Watkiss that burst through to score Australia's sole goal at the Sydney Sports Ground.

Johnny Watkiss moved from Canterbury in later years to play for the great Sydney sides of the 60s and 70s of A.P.I.A. and then Hakoah. In the 1965 Grand Final, Johnny Watkiss slammed for Apia no less than five incredible goals to sink St George 7-1 at the Sports Ground. The wonderful Watkiss has proudly represented Australia in no less than three World Cup campaigns. Today John, (father of three daughters), and a former scrapmetal merchant, is retired and lives with his wife Judy in the Southern Sydney suburb of Gymea.

Baartz, Watkiss and Warren were three of Australia's all-time greats. Unquestionably.

from the dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis

Farina Says It Right

Socceroo coach Frank Farina last week stated to the mainstream press that our prominent youth stars will do themselves a lot better if they stick out a year or two in our very own National League rather than shooting off overseas in search of a European club.

Farina believes that most of these youngsters, in the 17-20 age bracket who have represented Australia have gone backwards as some of them aren't even getting any game time in their squads youth sides.

Notably, he mentioned Inter Milan's Aussie Primavera players Nathan Cole and Carl Valeri.

I believe that the Socceroo coach does have point, securing our best young talent here, putting them in our high-class institute programs will only better this nation's chances of creating better players for our future Socceroo side.



Frank Farina believes youngsters should stay in the NSL first before heading overseas.

It's been great to see a number of National League clubs and their coaches use many youth stars.

Lawne McKinnz at the Spirit, JP at the Stallions, Grant Lee at Sydney United, both Ian Dobson and Stuart Munro at the Knights and South, Stuart McLaren at the Strikers, John Turner at the Wolves

have been some of the coaches that have introduced new exciting youth stars to our game. One argument however is this. Say we do hold our young stars here, what future's do they have if a club manages to land a cool million and buy like crazy ala the Parramatta Power this season.

I'm not doubting the Power's name in anyway however I have yet to see any youngsters make a name for themselves in the past two seasons at the club.

What am I getting at? Its simple - During next seasons new and improved Australian Premier League, the clubs that will make the cut will need to be substantially well-off as the code strides for professionalism.

Once these clubs have the money to spend on whichever players they desire, does that mean that these youngsters will miss out?

Will we see a massive influx of ex-Succeroos coming back home and retiring at any of our APL clubs thus cutting the chances of a youngster to explore his skills in our very own league?

Its already happened with the Power, due to money issues, other clubs have been forced to play with what they have, however the youth stars that have come out through this has been phenomenal.

Just look at our current U20 squad, 14 out of the 20-man squad are from the NSL, a true sign that the youth policy is working in Australia.

Its all good and well to say that we should keep our youth stars in Australia under lock and chain for a while, but these boys need assurance that if they do stay here, its to better them both in the football sense and financially.

One prime example of a player that went through the whole system and that is currently reaping the rewards of overseas success has been Brett Emerton. 'Emo' stuck it out in Australia with Sydney Olympic before signing for Feyenoord where he made a name for himself.

Blackburn Rovers then snapped up the star midfielder who was once apart of the NSWIS and AIS programs.

Then you have the other tale of Liverpool star Harry Kewell.

The 'Jewel' left at the age of 14 on a big brother scholarship program with Leeds United and he finds himself at one of the biggest clubs in the world.

Take it how you like, one things for sure, Australia does produce quality youth players, lets hope that this continues to grow over the years.

GOUTZIOULIS AND HALPIN - OLYMPIC BOYS



George Goutzioulis has been snapped up by Sydney Olympic.

Sydney Olympic coach Peter Papanikitas last week received some great news with the strengthening of his squad for the new year in January.

Former Olympic players George Goutzioulis and Troy Halpin will once again wear the Blue and White jersey of Olympic it was revealed last week.

Goutzioulis, a character both in and out of the football field spent the past few months at Singapore side Tampine Rovers.

From Asian sources 'Goutzi' did really well scoring 17 goals but wanted a move back to his home country and Olympic were the club that stepped up and finished his transfer.

A known attacking midfielder, 'Paps' could use him as a striker as the side has struggled to notch up goals this year.

Halpin also returns to the club and his presence will boost the sides midfield.

Its was stated in 'from the sheds' last week that five players were asked to leave the club in January - the

introduction of these two stars will lift the club in more ways than one - Olympic could well fair in the top six after all.

Former South Melbourne midfielder Steve Panopoulos could also be another new inclusion at OKI Jubilee Oval.

Playing at Adelaide Utd like the Maracana - Alagich

Tribalfootball.com reports that Adelaide United defender Richie Alagich has likened a sold-out Hindmarsh stadium to Brazil's famous Maracana. Alagich played in the Maracana while with South Melbourne in the World Club Championships and believes United's fans are producing an even bigger atmosphere at Hindmarsh.

He told *The Advertiser*: "Walking out and seeing all those fans in the stands, it was amazing. "It was quite emotional and some of the players had tears in their eyes. "It is definitely at the top of the list of career highlights."



Richie Alagich glad to be at Adelaide United.



He continued, "I could have stayed in Brisbane but when the chance came to return to my old job (Development Officer at the SA Soccer Federation), and with our first child due soon, my wife Melissa and I thought it was time to come back home. "We couldn't have imagined how things would turn out."

"Everybody's quite pleased, particularly after our limited preparation. But the task now is to keep it going."

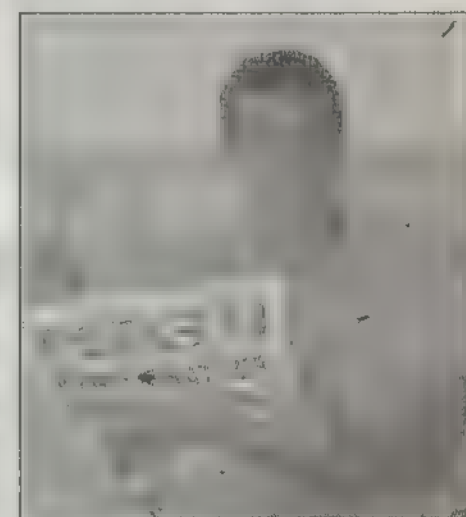
They call him Duric - Alex Duric

Once a player in the National League for the Gippsland Falcons, Marconi Stallions and Sydney Olympic, tall striker Alex Duric is certainly making a name for himself in Singapore's S-League with club Geylang United.

The gun-striker currently leads the tally of Australian goal-scorers with an amazing 32 to his name, a terrific achievement and yet there has been no mention of this in any mainstream paper in Australia.

The Bosman born striker has settled in rather well in Singapore along with wife and former model Natasha who have stated that the people have been 'really nice' since their arrival.

The 33-year-old striker is still considering that a move back to Australia could be on the cards so National League clubs take note - Aussie's Abroad's top scorer could be at the fingertips of a respective NSL club, but whom?



The best reading the best: Alex Duric has bagged 32 goals for Singapore side Geylang United this season.

POSITION TO BE VACANT?

Watch this space as a prominent position in the nations country ranks could change in the next two months. ABSW will keep you informed with this story as it comes to hand.

How Bizarre?

Fans throws home-made grenade

An Iranian spectator hurled a homemade grenade onto the field during a soccer match between Iran and North Korea last Thursday, injuring a Korean player.

The game was stopped in the 56th minute and the North Korean team left the field shortly after to protest the lack of security at Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

The match, the second leg of a qualifying tie for the 2004 Asian championship finals, was not completed.

STOP PRESS: RADIO 98.5

Sydney ABSW Readers, for all the latest news and results on the National League and abroad, tune into 98.5 FM every Sunday evening's at 10PM for your weekly dose of football.

Led by ABSW's Italian and National League correspondent Joe Russo, 98.5's Italian correspondent Joseph Carineci, English Premier League buff Stuart Jones and also ABSW Editor Mark Stavroulakis - opinions from these soccer experts have and will be voiced over live on air - Tune in to the real soccer station.

photooftheweek





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NSW PREMIER LEAGUE READY TO ROCK

The long-awaited first round of the NSW Premier League is finally here. After weeks of pre-season preparation, everything is ready for kick off this weekend.

Many are predicting one of the best seasons in memory, and all the ingredients for an interesting and entertaining year are certainly there.

The only way to experience it is to be there, so why not venture to one of the Premier League fixtures this weekend and see some top-line soccer, in both First Grade and the Under 20 competition?

In a period when football is undergoing many changes, almost all the Premier League clubs have experienced some sort of off-season drama or development. Penrith has merged with Nepean, the Central Coast has unified and almost every club has worked to improve their clubhouses and stadiums in time for season 2003/04.

One notable feature is the number of players from the National League who have decided to sign with local Premier League teams. Names like David Cervinski, Rob Stanton, David Barrett and Gabriel

Mendez have starred in the NSL but are now Premier League players. Their presence enhances the all-round quality of the competition, but also serves to illustrate that the gap between Premier League and NSL is growing less.

Look also to many new names to stand up and be counted over the course of the season. Soccer NSW will regularly be running profiles on the up and coming stars of the league.

A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers are many people's favourite for the title this season, along with perennial challengers Blacktown City and Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

Belconnen, Canterbury, Rockdale also look strong. And keep an eye on Sydney Crescent Star, who won the Winter Super League in style a couple of months back, and could be a real force when they settle down.

But the whole league is wide open. Every club has experienced a large turnover in personnel, as well as changes on the coaching bench, and predicting a winner will be a very dicey proposition for the next few weeks.

Nevertheless, Soccer New South Wales has assembled a team of intrepid tipsters who will do their best to pick the outcome of each match during the season.

Round One sees some intriguing match-ups.

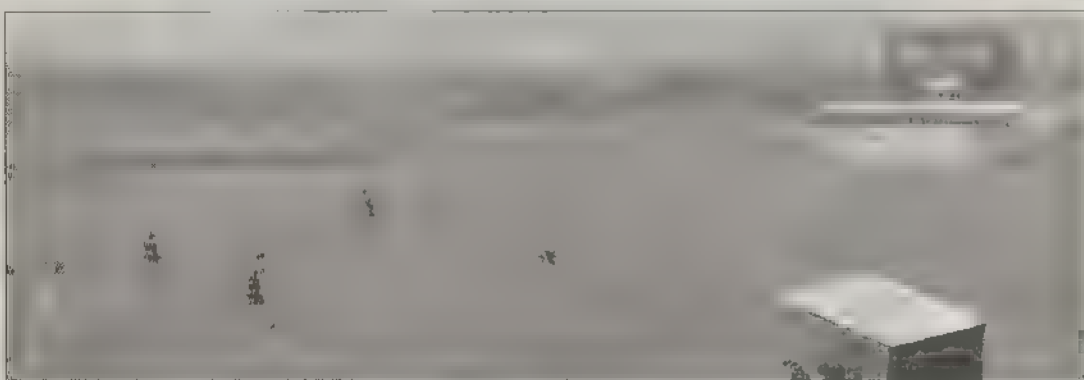
Rockdale City Suns meet Bonnyrigg White Eagles at John Crehan Park in Cringila on the south coast, 7pm Saturday, in a replay of the John Warren Cup Final. Despite the travel, the White Eagles will have to go in favourites here after their victory last weekend.

Saturday's other matches see Belconnen Blue Devils tackle St. George Saints at the MacKellar Soccer Centre (7pm) in Canberra, and Penrith and Blacktown clash in the battle of the west at Cook Park, St. Marys. The First Grade match kicks off at 5pm, the Under 20's at 3pm.

On Sunday, Parramatta Eagles are hosting the newly christened Central Coast United at Melita Stadium at 6pm, while Bankstown City Lions and Canterbury-Marrickville will face off at Jensen Park, with the First Grade starting at 6pm.

Finally, last year's champions A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers will provide a warm welcome to the Premier League to Sydney Crescent Star. The match takes place at Lambert Park on Sunday, with the First Grade starting at 5pm.

Be there!



Wild weather at the John Warren Cup Final at St George Stadium last Sunday

WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

Sapphires See To Vision

NSW Sapphires

4

Victoria Vision

1

by Janene Mar

Three Young Matilda candidates scored for NSW, as WNSL frontrunners the Sapphires comfortably accounted for Victoria Vision 4-1 in Saturday's Round Five match in Melbourne.

In scorching heat, NSW Sapphires dominated the match with fantastic composure on the ball, fluent passing combinations, and scoring chances aplenty. Victoria created their share of danger on goal in the first half, relying more on the long ball and the counterattack, but tired markedly in the second stanza.

Underdogs Vision almost scored inside the opening four minutes, striker Belinda Pannella beating the offside trap only for NSW goalkeeper Cassandra Kell to block the chance on the edge of her area. Just

four minutes later, the Sapphires gained the ascendancy with a goal.

A corner from the right was struck first time but cleared off the line by a defender on the post, with the rebound put away by Sally Shipard.

Shipard almost scored again midway through the half but her shot was stopped by a great save at full stretch from Vision keeper Melissa Barbieri. But the following minute, NSW did double their lead when midfielder Kyhe Ledbrook was allowed to march in on goal unchallenged and shoot past Barbieri after her defence seemed to stop in appeal for offside.

Then, against the run of play, the home side pulled themselves back into the contest with a goal to take the score to 2-1. Pannella threaded a beautiful through-ball to release Leigh Terek in a one-on-one with the goalkeeper and, from the edge of the 18-yard box, found the target.

In the second half, the Sapphires ran away with the game, their fitness holding up to the final whistle in the oppressive conditions as Victoria faded. On the hour mark, NSW scored their third with a brilliant team effort. A searching long ball from the defence picked out Shipard on the left flank who

surged forward and crossed the ball in. Ledbrook made a neat dummy over the ball leaving it for the unmarked Catherine Cannuli to finish.

Shipard capped a fine performance with her second goal, a great solo effort in the 79th minute, forging up the left from the halfway line, shrugging off a defender and hitting the back of the net from 10 metres.

Another big win for NSW puts them in a positive frame of mind for their second clash of the season with Northern NSW Pride. The match takes place at Valentine Sports Park this Sunday the 23rd of November at 3pm.



Catherine Cannuli scored again for the Sapphires

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WARREN CUP THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

Honours Shared in Stormy Encounter

	Sydney Crescent Star	0
	St George	0

by Paul Goodwin

St George tried to salvage something from a disappointing tournament when they faced Sydney Crescent Star in the Third place play-off, the early game at the Stadium last Sunday.

They were far from convincing in the early stages and almost went behind in the 18th minute when a clever free kick from Joe Bruni came back off the crossbar.

In very blustery conditions both sides found it difficult to control their passing and as the clouds began to gather many of those assembled sought the comfort of the covered sections of the grandstand

with the thunder beginning to roll in and rain heading from the city.

Raphael Bove stung the hands of Steve Tolios in the 28th minute as the Saints began to make some impact on proceedings at last.

Then the rain came, squalling its way across the pitch and making things very uncomfortable for the players. Even some spectators who had not seen it coming made a belated dash for cover, but all the players could do was try and make the best of things.

George Lagoudakis laid a pass on for his skipper Gabriel Mendez in the 42nd minute, which saw a shot strike a defender, when goal bound and the Saints had to be satisfied with just a corner.

Joe Bruni's near post header flew wide from a smart cross in the 47th minute, after good prompting



Both sides struggled to make an impact in the driving rain

from Angelo Petratos, as Crescent Star attempted to wrest control from St George after the break.

The weather had settled down by the time the players resumed their places out on the field, but that didn't last long and soon the driving rain returned.

Adnan Webster almost caught Star's custodian, Steve Tolios, out when he rocked the crossbar from wide on the right in the 59th and then moments later Mendez put a free kick inches wide of the post.

Bruni struck a fierce free kick from wide on the right that deflected for a corner in the 65th for Crescent Star, who had brought in Shane Hammond on the left and used Bruni to full advantage running off him.

A first time cross from Mendez in the 77th found Bruno Beddoni lurking in the box and the veteran's diving header just scraped paint off the right hand post as it flashed wide.

Tolios was called upon to save well from Nick Bolianitis in the 84th minute when the tall defender's drive from outside the area required the keeper to punch clear.

With six minutes remaining referee Alex Spiroski

felt it best to call it a day due to the lightning and the threat to life and limb so both sides shared the third prize.

It had not been the most inspiring of games but held the interest of a large crowd gathered as much for the sense of occasion as the importance of a win to either side.

The Johnny Warren Cup had proven a success both on the field and off even before the final was played.

Good crowds, excellent squad rotation for the teams taking part and a chance for everyone involved in the game to brush off the cobwebs before the curtain comes up this weekend.



Ricardo Patrizi seizes a high ball

SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR: Steve Tolios, Safir Yildiz, Michael Ondric 66, Angelo Petratos, C. Askar Oygur, Ugur Tokdogan, Danie W. Loughov, Volkan K. (Shane Hammond 46), Anthony Hartshorn, Terry Atsas, Hakan Selgin (Fot. Hatzivasanas 73), Joe Bruni.
Subs not used: R. K. Ali Akbar, Unal Ogmen, Hassan Al Koza.
Coach: Yasin Ozdenak

ST GEORGE: Ricardo Patrizi (Matthew Miosevic 46), Seb Sinovic, Nick Bolianitis, Vince Savoca, Adrian Webster, Raphael Bove, Max Sevaes 53, Bruno Beddoni, Gabriel Mendez, C. George Lagoudakis (Zoli Adiosko 66), Simon Verrender, Dalibor Slezak (James Kovas 73).
Sub not used: Paulo Oliveira.
Coach: Manny Spanoudakis

Referee: Alex Spiroski
Assistant Referees: Terry Goodhew and Andrew Kay
Yellow Cards: Nil





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WARREN CUP FINAL

White Eagles Swoop on Trophy

Rockdale City Suns

0

Bonnyrigg White Eagles

1

by Greg Stock

A big crowd had gathered by the time the Warren Cup Final began, but the 1500 or so spectators would have been far greater in number had the rain stayed away.

As it was, the atmosphere was good for a pre-season contest and the presentation of teams to Johnny Warren before the game went down a treat, umbrellas and all.

Bonnyrigg, boosted by the return of skipper Tayfun Devrimol, began like an express train and dictated the early passages of a lively opening half.

Bonnyrigg took the lead when a ball floated over from the left from a corner, by Shane Knight, eluded all the defenders and was nodded over the head of the advancing keeper Peter Trajceviski, looping in from the back of the head of the canny Fred Umlil in the 20th minute.

A great save from a shot by Robbie Todorovski at point blank range three minutes later by Steve Angelov denied the Suns an early equaliser.

Todorovski forced another superb reflex save from Angelov in the 25th after Apolevski had burst through the middle and fed Steve Bozinovski out wide on the right.

The cross to the near post was a good one but Angelov just got there a split second ahead of the nippy Rockdale striker to again deny the chance of a goal.

Todorovski set up Apolevski for a shot from 15 yards in the 30th, and once again the very agile

Angelov dived spectacularly to effect the save.

Fred Umlil wasted a chance to put the White Eagles two up in the latter stages of the first half when he blasted his free kick well over the bar at the scoreboard end.

Half time came and the four presidents of the clubs participating in the Johnny Warren Cup and Johnny himself handed over a cheque to Catherine Oates Smith from the Sydney Cancer Foundation for \$5000. Frank Sartor, the local member, was also among the party on hand for the presentation.

St George president Ross Gardner conducted the proceedings in front of the main grandstand in company with Lee Yildirim of Crescent Star, Steve Pozder of Bonnyrigg and Mile Dimoski of Rockdale.

When the second half got under way Nick Orlic began a good move from deep and sent Ben Deighan on his way down the middle. Deighan skipped some tackles and then provided Todorovski with another chance to level, but the young striker drove wide from close range, just skimming the right post with Angelov floundering.

Todorovski and Harry James tussled with Angelov for a ball played in from deep from a free kick, when Apolevski had clashed with Devrimol out wide on the right, near the half way line.

It looked good for Rockdale as the two men went in to challenge the keeper, but a brave piece of work from Angelov and perhaps a measure of good fortune denied the Suns a chance to draw level. Immediately after this miss both Rockdale strikers were substituted.

Clearly Suns' coach Bill Petrovski felt that Goce Trposki and Daniel Kukucka could fare better. But before long Trposki succumbed to an injury and Mal Bideau came on instead.

Shane Knight had a gift-edged chance to put Bonnyrigg further ahead when he raced onto a great pass down the left flank, but the keeper made another wonderful reflex save and the follow-up effort from Dejan Malenica was delivered straight into Trajceviski's hands from close range, with plenty of goal to aim at.

At the other end Steve Dimitrievski landed one onto the roof of the net from distance, to the regret of the Rockdale supporters.

In the 80th, Dimitrievski appeared to have counter-attacked successfully and set sail for goal, but a belated offside flag conspired against his further passage when the open goal beckoned.

Bonnyrigg quickly responded when Burgess had a header inside the box well saved by Trajceviski, after a fine ball in



Steve Angelov punches clear of Ante Moric

from Fred Umlil and then, shortly afterwards, Burgess was again out of luck when the keeper saved another close-range shot.

Devrimol then tested Trajceviski with a long range effort that had to be tipped over the bar just a few

moments later. Malenica's progress was halted by a tackle on the edge of the box in the 84th that earned his side a free kick, but Mark D'Alessandro's free kick went sky high.

Angelov dropped the ball from a Rockdale corner with a few minutes remaining but recovered in time to gather right on his goal line.

A tense time ensued for both sides but with penalties and no extra time available to decide if it was a draw, spectators began to drift away.

Those who stayed saw Johnny Warren present the trophy to White Eagles skipper Tayfun Devrimol who was playing his first game in months after travelling overseas.

It was a good, keen contest and a great prelude to the opening round encounter between the same two sides next Sunday on the South Coast.



Peco Trajceviski boots away a clearance

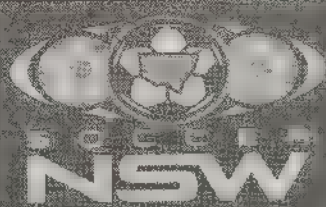


Rockdale defender Nick Orlic

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS: Peter Trajceviski, Joe Moric (Tony JJ 71), Nick Orlic, Richard Pesa (C), Ben Deighan, Steve Dimitrievski, 66, Tony Sekulic, Ante Moric, Steve Bozinovski, Harry James (Daniel Kukucka 63), Peter Apolevski, Robert Todorovski, Goce Trposki 63, Mal Bideau, 77.
Sub not used: Daniel Farias (RKG).
Coach: Bill Petrovski.

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES: Steve Angelov, Tayfun Devrimol (C), Scott Wells, Mark D'Alessandro, Dejan Malenica, Fred Umlil, Chris Fleming, Greg Collins, Mirsad Simonovic 70, Devrim Huseyin, Shane Knight, Aaron Burgess (Dalibor Drca 82).
Subs not used: Cem Akili (RKG), Brendan Mitrovic, Alex Canak.

Referee: Nick Asargiotis
Assistant Referees: Terry Goodhaw and Andrew Kay
Yellow Cards: Nil.



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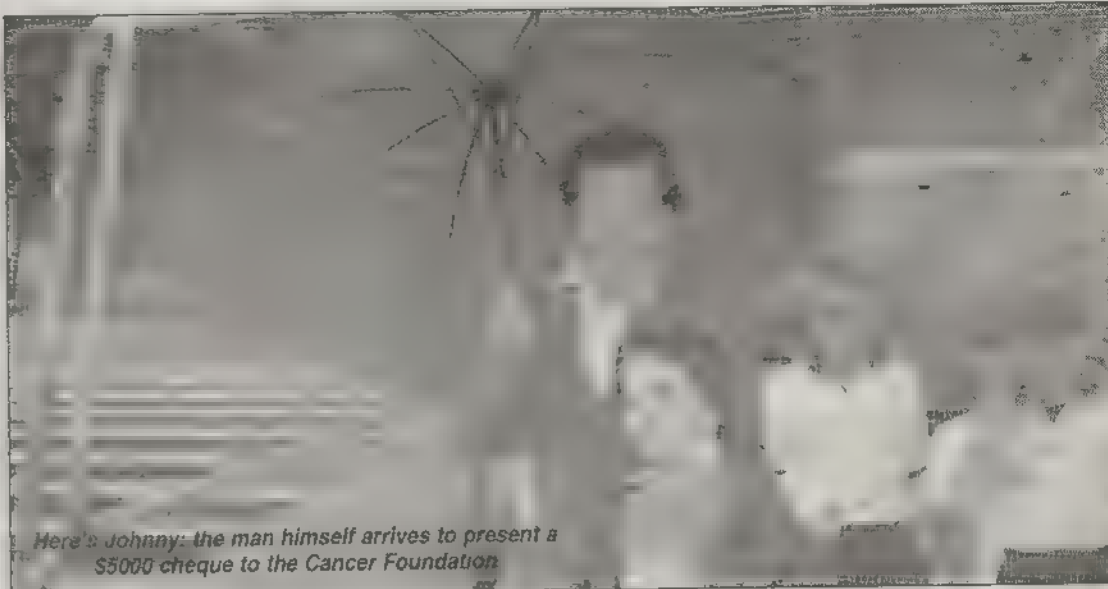


WARREN CUP FINAL

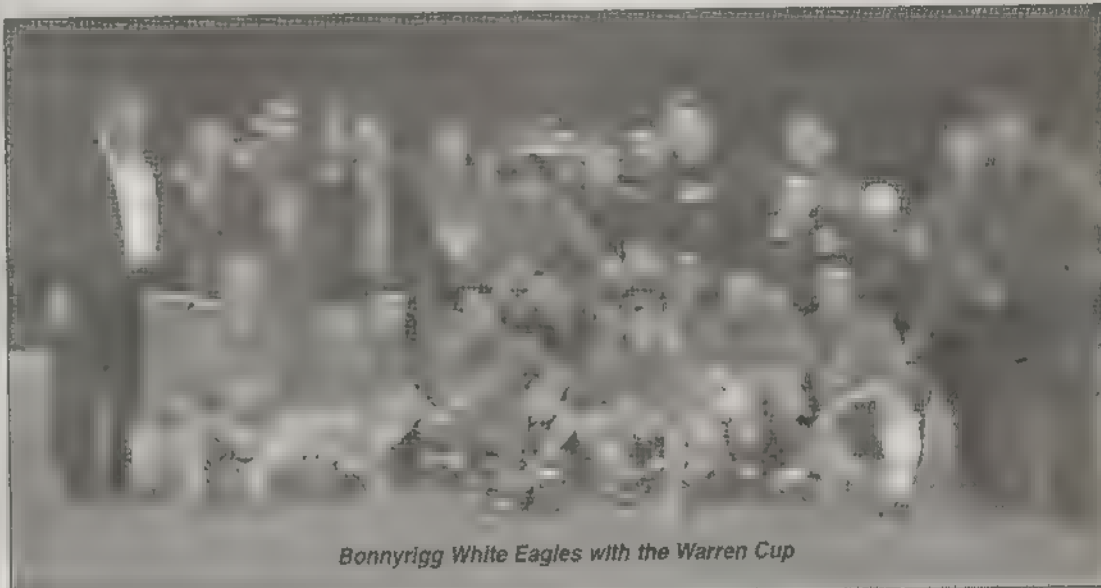
Images by Carlos Furtado



Bonnyrigg keeper
Steven Angelov

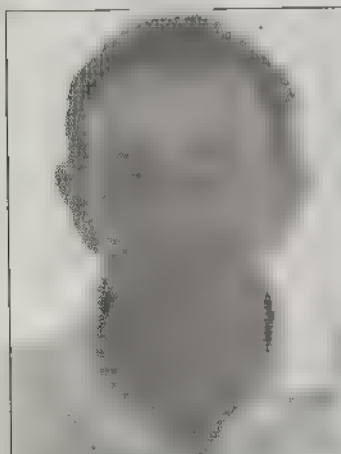


Here's Johnny: the man himself arrives to present a
\$5000 cheque to the Cancer Foundation

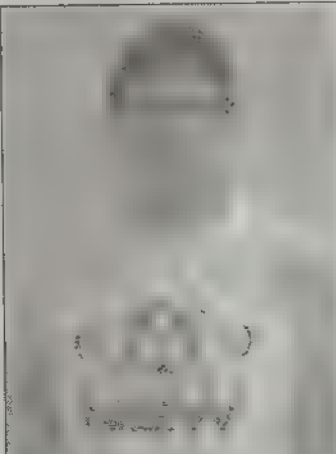


Bonnyrigg White Eagles with the Warren Cup

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE TIPPING COLUMN



PAUL GOODWIN
SOCCER NSW JOURNALIST
BELCONNEN
DRAW
APIA
ROCKDALE
BANKSTOWN
CENTRAL COAST



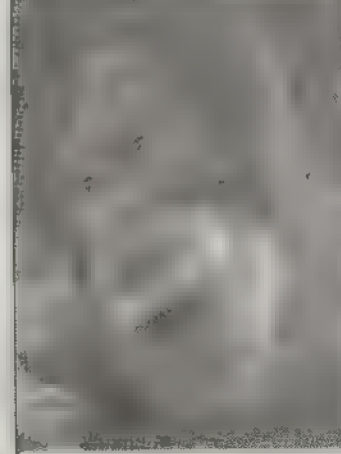
TARYN ROCKALL
NSW SAPPHIRES CAPTAIN
ST GEORGE
BLACKTOWN
APIA
BONNYRIGG
BANKSTOWN
CENTRAL COAST



ANDY PASCHALIDIS
ELITE SPORTS TRAVEL
ROCKDALE
PARRAMATTA EAGLES
DRAW
APIA-LEICHHARDT
DRAW
BLACKTOWN CITY



GREG STOCK
SOCCER NSW JOURNALIST
BELCONNEN
PENRITH
APIA
ROCKDALE
CANTERBURY
PARRAMATTA EAGLES



'PEANUTS'
THE MONKEY
BELCONNEN
BLACKTOWN
APIA
ROCKDALE
CANTERBURY
PARRAMATTA



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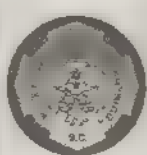
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NSW PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEWS



Rockdale City Suns
VS
Bonnyrigg White Eagles



Saturday 22nd November at John Crehan Park
Kick-off 7.00pm First Grade / 5.00pm Grade 20

A surprise 1-0 win in the Johnny Warren Cup last week sends Bonnyrigg into their clash with Rockdale at John Crehan Park as overwhelming favourites.

The key to their performance lies in their midfield where new signings Greg Collins and Richard Harrison will link up with Deyrim Huseyin and Freddy Umlil, forming a hardworking combination sure to test the Suns.

Rockdale coach Bill Pilovski faces a selection dilemma this week with three strikers battling for two spots.

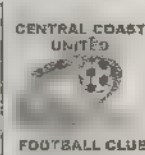
Former Sydney Olympic target man Harry James,

Daniel Kukucka, Goce Tripovski and Robbie Todorovski have all looked solid in recent weeks with Pilovski expected to favour a two-striker pattern with Steve Dimitrevski sitting in behind. Tony Sekulic and Nick Orlic will add some steel to the defence while the return of Peter Trajcevi in goals has the club confident they can match it with their more fancied opponents.

Fans should expect plenty of end-to-end action with both coaches known for employing a very attacking game plan. In their two Premier League meetings to date, Bonnyrigg hold the honours with a win and a draw.



Parramatta Eagles
VS
Central Coast Utd



Sunday 23rd November at Melita Stadium
Kick-Off 6.00pm First Grade / 4.00pm Grade 20

There are a lot of similarities between the Eagles and the Coasties ahead of this weeks matchup at Melita Stadium; both have new coaches, new playing rosters and both are tipped by many pundits to be relegation candidates.

The Eagles have just five of last season's squad backing up and much will fall on the shoulders of veteran Mark Reveley to lend his experience to a team based largely on youth.

Some impressive trial performances have lifted the spirits of the Eagles camp with coach Trevor Morgan showing he can put a well drilled and very

enthusiastic side on the park.

The Coasties new boss Jim Foley has announced Sean Matthews as the Club Captain, and Mark Falzon as team captain with both expected to have big games. Striker James Subiti has also been earning rave reviews and should be one to watch.

In eight seasons of trying, the Coasties have beaten the Eagles just twice at Melita Stadium, the last time way back in 1997; the record standing at 2 wins and 2 draws from 8 appearances.

That's one record they want to put behind them, so last season's Fair Play winners will be raring to go in Sydney this weekend.



Bankstown City Lions
VS
Canterbury-Marrickville



Sunday 23rd November at Jensen Park
Kick-Off 6.00pm First Grade / 4.00pm Grade 20

Berries coach Greg Woodhouse has assembled an all-star cast down at Henson Park but fears his side could still be a little underdone heading into their clash with Bankstown City.

"We have a number of new faces in the team and it will take us a few weeks to gel," said Woodhouse.

"I really don't expect us to be hitting our straps until Christmas as we are still searching for some combination."

With a new coach making his Premier League debut, all the pressure is on Bankstown as the look to reestablish themselves as genuine contenders.

With some solid trial form under their belt their army of loyal fans will be baying for a big first up effort, especially from prize recruits Matthew Borg and Marc Hoenselaars.

Their clash with Berries defender David Cervinski and Sash Utesenovic should be worth the price of admission alone, with Robbie Gomez and Aleksander Asanovic sitting in behind the 'dynamic duo' waiting to pounce.

Historically, Canterbury hold the whip hand in these clashes at Jensen Park, with five wins and three draws in eleven meetings.



A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt
VS
Sydney Crescent Star



Sunday 23rd November at Lambert Park
Kick-Off 5.00pm First Grade / 3.00pm Grade 20

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt face winter Super League premiers and champions Sydney Crescent Star in their opening encounter at Lambert Park.

A.P.I.A. have signed a number of new and useful players but have also said goodbye to many others. Losing one time skipper Sam Larocca and club skipper Marcus Stergiopoulos will be felt for sure, as well as the Moric brothers, Joe and Ante, but players coming in have good credentials too.

Brad Swancott, the Tigers' new keeper, will miss the first game through a suspension carried over from his winter season spell with Weston Bears.

Crescent Star will go into the game short-handed as well. Their captain, Yavuz Ekinici, looks likely to miss the opening round with a hamstring injury sustained at training. Grand Final goalscoring hero, Filip Marzec, has contracted a mystery illness, but Crescent Star is hopeful that the industrious player will recover in time for the big kick off.

The Star's coach Yasin Ozdenak expects his players to improve their fitness in the coming weeks and is working hard with the new signings to adapt them to the Crescent Star style of play, a fast, attacking brand of football. This game should be a thriller - the perfect way to start the new season.



Belconnen Blue Devils
VS
St George Saints



Saturday 22nd November at McKellar Soccer Centre
Kick-Off 7.00pm First Grade / 4.30pm Grade 20

A tougher Belconnen begin the new season with a visit from old friends St George at their smart McKellar Soccer Centre.

With respect to the Canberra game the Saints have a couple of concerns, the major one being the goalkeeping. Regular custodian, Phil Weston, will be out for another 4 weeks with a broken bone in his foot and Ricardo Patrzi, who has shown great reflexes in the Johnny Warren Cup games, is sure he will require arthroscopic surgery to correct a cartilage problem. Coach Manny Spanoudakis comments

"We've got a few options but nothing concrete as

yet. Dean Culina's ankle injury is not responding to treatment as well as we would like, Daniel Watkins is still recovering from his knee surgery and it is highly unlikely that he will play."

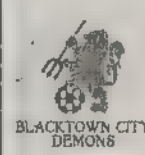
Given that Kosta Lagoudakis flies out on Sunday for a month in the UK with Liverpool, the St George cupboard does look a bit bare for the first match.

But Gabriel Mendez is sure to fire his men up, and the Canberra side should not think this will be a simple three pointer for them.

Belconnen wrapped up their trial programme with a 2-1 win over Parramatta Eagles in Sydney and this follows their sound win at Penrith a week earlier.



Penrith Panthers
VS
Blacktown City Demons



Saturday 22nd November at Andrew Rd Park
Kick-Off 5.00pm First Grade / 3.00pm Grade 20

The new season begins with these two neighbours engaged in what should be a huge derby.

Last time they met, the Demons prevailed 2-1 at Andrews Road in a fiery encounter in round three of the previous season, and no doubt this one will be just as keenly contested when it is played at Cook Park, the new home of the Panthers for the summer.

The last couple of weekends the Panthers' activity was restricted to a team triathlon at Penrith Lakes and club training, as they sought to gain maximum benefit from their legendary unity. The Panthers will be without their new signing Allan

Wawi for the first two matches, the left sided player being suspended after a send off with Wanderers Cedars in a First Division finals' match.

Blacktown have been working well and will feel they are worthy favourites for this one. Penrith are yet to beat Blacktown, since moving into the Premier League and therefore a draw would equal their best performance. They had a trial against A.P.I.A. last Saturday and lost in the heat 2-0 at Valentine Park, having suffered a similar fate against Canterbury and Parramatta. The Demons, who have signed Josh Maguire, should not be assessed on that trial form of course.

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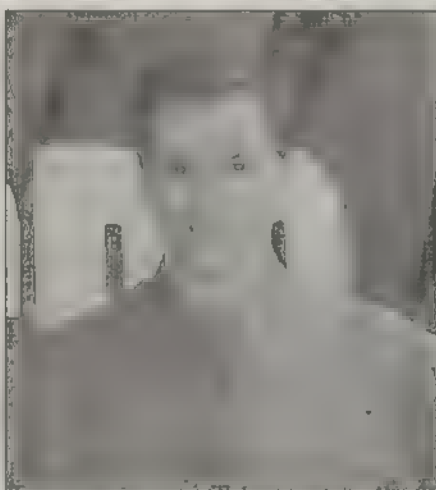
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Football Fever 2KY1017

2ky's Football Fever is the only radio program in Sydney dedicated to soccer. Hosts Paul Williams and "The Gaffer" look at every aspect of the World Game from the NSW Premier League and NSL through to the top leagues in Europe and South America, as well as International football. Listeners can participate on-air through the "Penalty Shootout Quiz" and via the openline.

"The latest NSW Premier League results and updates will be available on Football Fever," said Soccer NSW Corporate Communications, Media and Marketing Manager Adam Mark.

"We will look forward to working with the show to bring all the latest NSW Premier League news to soccer supporters. We will be doing live crosses to players after matches, and generally cover the games from all angles," he said. The show is on between 8 and 9pm on Sunday nights. Frequency is 101.7. Check the website at www.2ky.com.au for local frequency details around NSW.



Paul Williams

Balconian Blue Devils Finalise Squad

Numbers	Name
1.	Tony Giannasca
2.	Adrian Dowling
3.	Scott Conlon
4.	Lee Pietrukowski
5.	Oscar Zamora
6.	Ilich Prenzowski
7.	Mike Katz
8.	Elliott Zwangobani
9.	Clinton Larfield
10.	Daniel Macor
11.	David Arranz
12.	Nic Purdue
13.	Daniel Camara
14.	Alex Castro
15.	Matt Valari
17.	Topica Popovich
18.	Anthony Galliozzi
19.	Adam Williams
31	Jimmy Carr



Berries Beat Malaysians

Canterbury Marrickville Olympic defeated the touring Malaysian Under-23 team at Valentine Sports Park on Friday night.

An early goal to Archie Markopoulos was enough to secure victory for the NSW Premier League side, who are gearing up for their first competitive game of the season against Bankstown City Lions this weekend.

On Wednesday, the Malaysians had defeated Sydney Crescent Star 3-2 at the same venue in an exciting match.

On Monday night, after Australian and British Soccer Weekly went to press, the Malaysian side played the Young Socceroos, who are currently preparing for the World Youth Cup.

By all accounts, the Malaysians have enjoyed their stay in NSW, and benefitted from the excellent facilities at Valentine Sports Park.



NEW CENTRAL COAST UNION

After months of negotiations between the Central Coast Soccer Association, Central Coast Colorbond Coasties and Mingara Lakers, agreement was reached to merge operations last month.

They agreed to form a new representative soccer club on the Central Coast by merging then NSW Premier League club Central Coast Coasties with rival club the Mingara Lakers, together with the full support of the Central Coast Soccer Association.

The new club is called the Central Coast United Football Club and retains the sponsorship of the first grade squad by Colorbond.

The former Central Coast Coasties won their way into the Premier League after battling their way through the divisions for many years under coaches such as John McLafferty, Dale Eggleton, Allan Bourke, Vic Bozanic, Bruce James and the man who takes on the job this sea-

son, Jim Foley.

The Mingara Central Coast Lakers have competed in the second highest NSW soccer competition for a number of years. They were originally named the Macquarie Lakers and played in the Northern NSW Soccer Association. Founder Phil Collins and his wife relocated the club to the Central Coast. They operated with the full support of the CCSA and fought their way into the 2nd Division.

With the new structure of Youth League, only teams competing in the top 3 divisions can have youth league representation, so the two clubs' resources were combined, with the support of the CCSA and a new club was formed to cater for all age groups at the highest possible competition level for ages 11 up to seniors in boys and 12 to seniors in girls.

The home ground is still Plum Park, in the central coast suburb of Lisarow, with the girls playing out of Mingara

Stadium. The Lakers built a club and ground at Mingara and the first few matches of the summer season will be held at the new ground north of Gosford.

CENTRAL COAST UNITED



FOOTBALL CLUB

Later in the season Plum Park will be the home of the Central Coast Colorbond United Football Club as they attempt to match the efforts of their predecessors.

The first major appointment of the new elite representative club was the

appointment of Jim Foley as Senior Head Coach, in charge of all the senior teams and staff. Jim has coached in the past with great success and will be ably supported by well known, local ex Coasties' and St George player Andrew Ollier.

Jim Foley says "I believe the merger between the Coasties and the Mingara Lakers is absolutely fantastic and a major positive step forward in taking soccer on the coast to where it needs to be."

"Obviously, as with any merger, it has not been without its teething problems, however I am confident that the merger will bear quality fruit."

The playing ranks have undergone some transformation under Jim Foley and Andrew Ollier and it may take some time for the new team to settle down, in contrast to past seasons, when the team has began faster than many other outfits.

The club has launched a new logo to symbolise the merger.

According to the club, "the soccer ball represents football, the world game against the backdrop of the Business Central Coast Logo that is explained below."

"The focal point of the logo is the two C's of the Central Coast. Fragments featured at the bottom of the two C's embody technology and business development."

"A navy blue curve overlaps the C's, representing the linking of the freeway and the abundance of water on the Central Coast. The shape linkage and a circular design harmoniously weave together lifestyle and business elements."

"An aqua sea gull pays homage to the Coast's aquatic activities and the relaxed lifestyle experienced by residents and tourists alike."

"In gold, aqua and navy, the logo is a fresh, innovative and festive portrayal of the sun, sand and sea so evident in our region."

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FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK



The Birth of Noah

Congratulations to St George defender Sebastian Sinozic on the birth of his son Noah Sebastian. Mum Dana is doing well, with little Noah weighing in at a very healthy 3.8kg's and according to our spies is already kicking well off both feet.

Sinozic was given some time off by Saints coach Manny Spanoudakis in preparation for a long season that could well see him return to the United States or Europe when the transfer window reopens in January.

Penrich's Bellies

It was a case of what might have been for Saints fans this week with star striker Tony Penrich confirming his intentions to retire ahead of start of the season this weekend. Recruited along with Gabriel 'Chi Chi' Mendez, Penrich had looked sharp in a couple of trial match appearances playing alongside Bruno Beddoni but work commitments have taken their toll prompting the decision.

"He is a key loss," said Spanoudakis, "but we understand his reasons and wish him the best of luck."

Czech Mate

Saints boss Spanoudakis has wasted no time in filling the hole left by Penrich, picking up Daniel Watkins and Czech striker Dalibor Szelak.

While Watkins will miss the first few rounds after a knee arthroscopy, Szelak will be one to keep an eye on after some very impressive outings in the Johnny Warren Cup.

In Australia to study English his football resume includes stints with Czech First Division clubs Banik Ostrava and Bohemians Praha and some Champions League appearances.

Clark and Monie Return

Returning to Australia this week is none other A.P.I.A. defender Andrew Clark and last season's Gold Medal winner James Monie at the conclusion of the Malaysian First Division season. Having left at the end of the Premier League regular season both players had exceptional years with club side Kedah, who finished second in the premiership race. "It was a great experience," said Monie, from his home on the Central Coast.

"I really enjoyed my time there and it was even better that the team did so well." Both Clark and Monie shared an apartment in Kedah, trained full-time and enjoyed something of a cult status amongst the locals.

"The league was not as physical as the NSL or Premier League because the size of the players is a lot smaller" said Clark, "but the heat is a great leveler and it takes some time to get used to it. We would train in the early in the morning at 8am and again after evening prayers at 8pm to avoid the heat of the day. Even games were played at 9pm and when your playing up to three games a week it really takes it out of you."

With crowds of over 30,000 at some games the league is a strong one with a number of fellow Aussie imports plying their trade there. "We caught up with guys like Robbie Gaspar, Ante Juric, Troy Halpin and Jon Angelucci during the year," said Clark.

"As an import you're judged very harshly and a couple of bad games can see you cut very quickly. But as far as lifestyle is concerned it is excellent, food is cheap, we get excellent crowds and the clubs look after you very well."

So what does the future hold for both? "I am weighing up a couple of offers," said Monie, "and will make a decision in the next week or so. I'd like to try my luck in the NSL and see what happens but at stage nothing has been decided."

For Clark, a return to Malaysia is unlikely given that Kedah has a new coach and the M-League employs a strange import policy. "If you're an import and a club cuts you, then you have to leave the country and can't resign for another club for at least twelve months," said Clark.

It makes it very difficult because Kedah has a new Brazilian coach and will probably look to some of his own players which means James and I might need to look at other options. Nothing has been confirmed yet, so at this stage I am considering a few offers here at home and will make a decision shortly."

It's An Honour

In the sport of cycling the 'yellow jersey' is used to describe the tour leader, the one cyclist who has performed above all others and won the previous days event. But at Premier League club Canterbury Marrickville, the same cannot be said for their ver-

sion of the 'yellow jersey,' given to a player who has been the 'team fool.'

The inaugural winners have been two of the clubs newest recruits, David Gardiner and Sam Larocca, Gardiner for his exploits at the 'Tropo' Nightclub in Gosford a few weeks back and Larocca for his comments in last weeks Salary Cap story. Penance for both players was served by wearing the jersey at training until another team mate does something equally as stupid to deserve it.

Zabaks Kicks On

Another of Rockdale's squad from last season is making headways overseas. Under 20's goalkeeper Philip Zabaks has spent the past few months trialling with some English league clubs including Stockport County before moving onto non-league side Accrington Stanley where it appears he has found his niche.

Over the weekend Zabaks made a starting appearance in the reserve grade side against 'Morecambe' and gave a good account of himself. The club has been so impressed with his work that they have set him up with accommodation in a local Bed and Breakfast, and are keen to sign him to a professional contract when the club moves from part-time to full-time status at the end of this season. FTS will keep our eyes and ears open for more news on Zabaks.

Demons News

Blacktown City have concluded their signings for the new season finally getting Kiwi International striker Paul Urlovic and midfielder Josh Maguire to sign contracts. In other club news, defender Dane Hokin is still a little sick and sorry for himself after coming off his motorcycle. Nursing some deep lacerations and grazing, coach Brian Brown is confident he will recover in time for a start against Penrith this weekend.

Cook Park for Panthers

Panthers fans note that the club will be playing their home games this year at Cook Park, St Marys as part of the joining of forces with the Nepean Association.

Patrizi Looking Good

The Saints new goalkeeper Richard Patrizi has made something of a name for himself with some exceptional performances in the Johnny Warren Cup. The cousin of midfielder Vince Savoca, Patrizi is something of a journeyman after spending the past five and a half years in Europe plying his trade before returning to Australia and of all places, Batemans Bay.

"I was a Marconi junior but made my first senior appearance with Canterbury under John Xipolitis in 1997," said Patrizi.

"When John moved on I decided to try my luck in Italy and played for a couple of Serie C sides before again moving to England and finally got a full time gig with Kingstoman."

On the books there for three years, Patrizi also had stints with Dagenham and Redbridge and Hampden and Richmond in the Ryman's Premier League before returning to Australia some nine months ago. "I decided that I had seen enough English winters to last me a lifetime and wanted to come back and start a family with my wife," said Patrizi.

"I originally went to Batemans Bay and was playing for an amateur club down there, but it really wasn't what I wanted. So we decided to

come up to Sydney and St George were good enough to give me a run and it went from there."

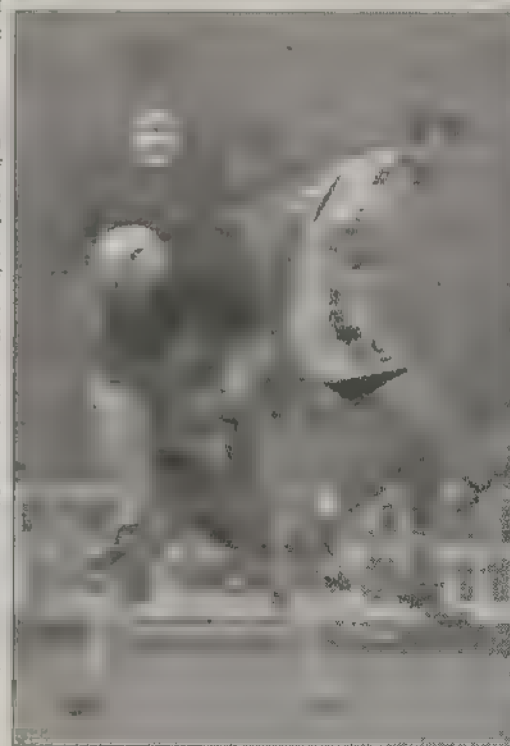
St George Assistant Coach Aytac Genc was one who spotted Patrizi's talent immediately with the club waiting for the outcome of an MRI scan this week before they put pen to paper with the talented goalkeeper. "He literally came out of nowhere and has been a great pickup for the club," said Genc. "He trains exceptionally hard, is technically very good and has been hardened by his experiences in England. I am sure if he can get his knee right he will be an excellent pickup."

Kara's Crystal Ball

Round One of the Premier League competition kicks off this Saturday night and who better to give us the benefits of his experience is striker Steve Karavatakis. Now on the books of National League club Sydney Olympic, Karavatakis has been languishing in the second grade side after just two substitute appearances and currently looks to be well out of favour despite some good form in recent weeks. Having scored well over 120 goals in Premier and Super League, we caught up with 'Kara' during the week and asked him to help us tipsters put a formline through the opening round games.

"Rockdale coach Bill Pilovski is a good friend of mine, so I'll have to go with the Suns to beat Bonnyrigg on the back of their good form in the Johnny Warren Cup. It's definitely the toughest road trip in the league and that's why I believe Belconnen should be too tough for St George, while Blacktown have done reasonably well to fill their gaps and will run over the top of Penrith."

My good mate Sam Larocca is at Canterbury so I can't tip anything but a Berries win over Bankstown while the Eagles should do enough at home to beat the Coasties. In the final game I will tip a draw between A.P.I.A. and Crescent Star, for no other reason that A.P.I.A. have been a little indifferent in the trial games and Crescent Star should be pumped for a big first up performance." There you have it!



Where's the ball? Rockdale and Bonnyrigg struggle to find the net during the Johnny Warren Cup Final last Sunday



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State League

Blacktown Association
Central Coast FC
Gladesville Ravens
Granville Rage
Hawkesbury City
Roselands Raptors
Southern Branch
St George Association
Sydney University

Bathurst City Panthers

Womens Soccer Club

Since their inauguration in the mid-90's, the Bathurst City Panthers have played in the Women's State League competition.

Super League is the highest level of club competition in NSW, and arguably Australia. The City Panthers are proud to be the first club from country NSW to play at this level of womens soccer.

Many of the players who pull on a Panthers jersey are not in fact from Bathurst. Other regional centres such as Orange, Canowindra, Mudgee and Lithgow help to keep the numbers up. Training is conducted twice a week, generally Tuesday and Thursday, at the Bathurst gaol oval under lights.

The Panthers also have a team in the Bathurst local All Age competition. This gives girls playing at that level the opportunity for elevation to Super League throughout the season, and be part of a professional club.

Another annual competition the Bathurst City Panthers participate in is the Waratah Shield. This is a mid-week knock-out competition, with all Super

League, State League and invited clubs participating.

Bathurst City Panthers home field is Proctor Park, in Russell Street Bathurst. Soccer at Proctor Park is conducted by Bathurst District Soccer, a ground with six fields, and it has extremely modern clubrooms, very good canteen, and huge change rooms.

Bathurst City Panthers as a club, is extremely proud of its players, many of whom have achieved very high representative honours.

The City Panthers to have attained representative honours at junior level recently include Renee Aberley, Emily Baillie, Krystle Cassidy, Emily Churches, Lisa Churches, Cassie Halloway, Kate Lawson, Elizabeth McCarthy, Tiffany Daymond, Lucy McClymont and Belinda Muldoon. Add to that Erica Halloway being chosen for the NSW Institute of Sport in 2002, and later being asked to train on with the NSW Sapphires, and the girls from City Panthers have had some real successes over the years.



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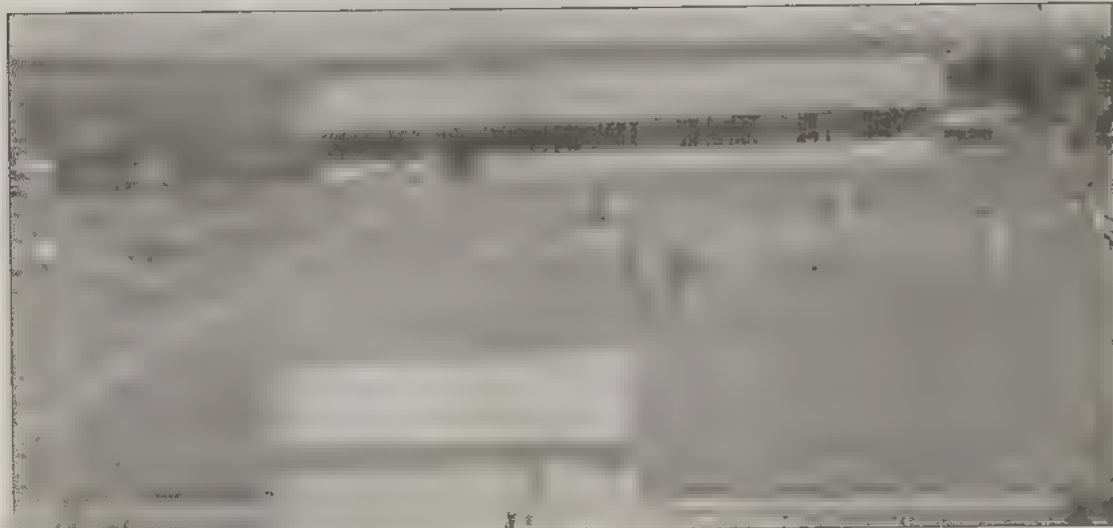
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World Cup 2006

ARGENTINA3
BOLIVIA0

Argentina came to life in the second half as they finally broke down a stubborn Bolivian defence for a 3-0 win in their World Cup qualifier in Buenos Aires.

After 57 minutes of frustration, Argentina embarked on a 13-minute three-goal spell with Andres D'Alessandro, Hernan Crespo and Pablo Aimar all finding the net to earn the hosts three precious points on a wet, windy night at the River Plate stadium.

Argentina, who travel to Colombia for their next game on Thursday (AEDT), have seven points from their first three matches in the 2006 qualifiers while Bolivia, who have shipped eight goals and scored none in two away matches, have three.

Bolivia had a half chance in the third minute but Cristian 'Kily' Gonzalez rushed back to scramble the ball away and after that it was all one way traffic.

Argentina, missing midfielder Juan Sebastian

Veron through suspension, created several chances without ever looking convincing.

Mexican-based Cesar Delgado, the only player in the Argentine team not at a European club, forced two good saves from goalkeeper Leonel Fernandez while Gonzalez went close with a cross shot.

Argentina also missed out when Alessandro outfoxed two markers and crossed but nobody connected.

The game continued in the same pattern after the break.

D'Alessandro finally made the breakthrough 12 minutes into the second half when he was fouled on the edge of the area, took the kick himself and curled in a shot which Fernandez could only push into his own net.

Chelsea striker Crespo added the second five minutes later, his second in successive internationals, as he sneaked between two defenders to volley home a cross from Pablo Aimar.

In the 70th minute, Aimar completed the scoring when he cleverly backheeled the ball into the net after Javier Zanetti had broken down the right

URUGUAY2
CHILE1

Striker Javier Chevanton floated in a 30-metre free kick to set Uruguay on the way to a 2-1 win at home to Chile in their 2006 World Cup qualifier.

Chevanton, who took his tally to four goals in three World Cup qualifiers, equalised in the 31st minute after Rodrigo Melendez had put the visitors ahead against the run of play.

Half-time substitute Marcelo Romero headed Uruguay's winner four minutes into the second half.

The result gave Uruguay six points from three games and Chile four in the South American group.

Uruguay are away to Brazil in their next game on Thursday (AEDT) while Chile host Paraguay on Wednesday (AEDT).

Inter Milan midfielder Alvaro Recoba, still struggling with a hamstring injury, started the match on the Uruguay bench while Chile were without injured striker Marcelo Salas and mid-field duo David Pizarro and Jorge Acuna.

Uruguay, fielding an attacking line-up that has become the trademark of their flamboyant coach Juan Carrasco, took the game to Chile but were stunned when the visitors scored first with the help of a blunder from goalkeeper Gustavo Munua.

Melendez shot from outside the area, the ball bounced in front of Munua and the Deportivo Coruna goalkeeper deflected it into the net. It was their only serious shot of the match.

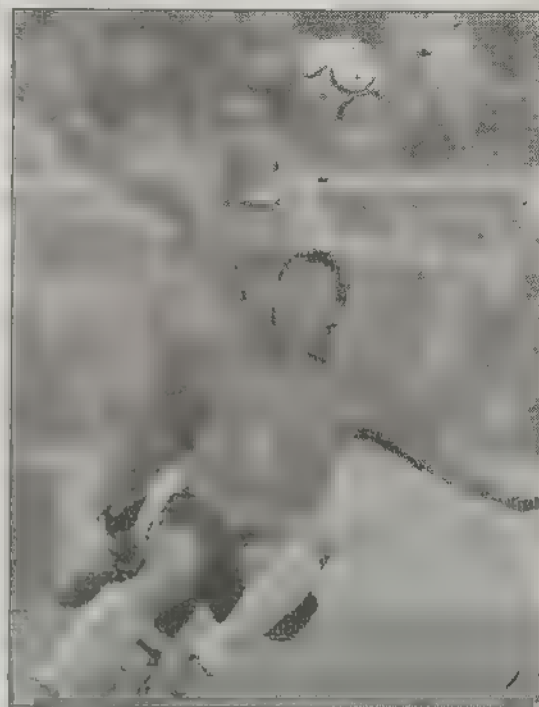
Chevanton, who plays for Italian club Lecce and scored from a stunning free kick in the 4-1 loss to Paraguay in September, repeat-

ed the trick 10 minutes later to level the scores.

Uruguay took off Manchester United striker Diego Forlan at half-time after an ineffective performance and went ahead after another poor piece of goalkeeping, this time from Chilean veteran Nelson Tapia.

Richard Nunez floated in a long free kick from the left, Tapia was slow to come out of his goal and Romero sneaked in at the far post to head in.

It was all Uruguay after that as Tapia made up for his mistake by denying Chevanton and Nunez.



Uruguay's Richard Nunez (left) battles for the ball with Chile's Patricio Hormazabal.

PARAGUAY2
ECUADOR1

Bayern Munich striker Roque Santa Cruz scored the first goal and set up the second for Jose Cardozo as Paraguay beat Ecuador 2-1 in a 2006 World Cup qualifier.

Santa Cruz broke his duck in the qualifiers when he blasted home a long-range shot in the 29th minute before Cardozo added to the hat-trick he scored in the recent 4-1 win over Uruguay with his 71st-minute decider. Edison Mendez replied for Ecuador early in the second half.

The result left Paraguay with six points from three games in the marathon South American qualifiers for the 2006 World Cup in Germany while Ecuador have three.

After a cagey opening, the game came to life when Santa Cruz collected ball in the midfield, turned and produced a 30-metre shot which squeezed between goalkeeper Jose Francisco Cevallos and the near post.

Paraguay missed several chances to increase their lead before Ecuador responded early in the second half.

The visitors were unlucky not to be awarded a penalty when Carlos Gamarra appeared to trip Kleber Chala in the area five minutes after the break.

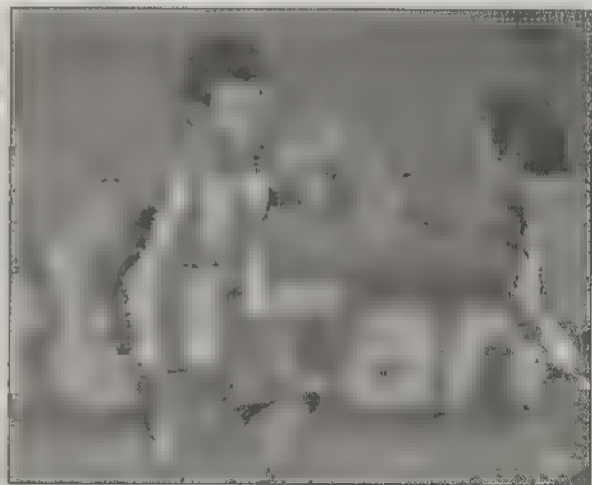
But in the 59th minute, midfielder Edison Mendez equalised when he

scored with a low, well-placed shot from the edge of the area.

Paraguay went back in front when Santa Cruz won the ball off Giovanni Espinoza, powered to the byline and pulled the ball back to Cardozo, who fired into the roof of the net from six metres.

Evelio Ordonez came close to equalising on a number of occasions as he poked the ball wide from a Franklin Salas pass and then produced a fierce shot on the turn which was well-saved by Justo Villar.

Ordonez also had a chance in injury time when he headed wide after Angel Fernandez crossed from the right.



Paraguay's Jose Cardozo (centre) celebrates after scoring the winner against Ecuador in Asuncion.

PERU1
BRAZIL1

Nolberto Solano headed a second half equaliser as Peru held world champions Brazil to a 1-1 draw in their World Cup qualifier in Lima.

Solano, who has been left on the bench at his English club Newcastle United in recent weeks, nipped in front of the Brazil defence to score at the near post in the 59th minute. AC Milan's Rivaldo, who has also been deprived of first team football at his club this season, had put Brazil ahead with a 21st-

minute penalty, his first international goal since last year's World Cup quarter-final against England.

Brazil had chances to wrap up the game as they ran Peru ragged before half-time. But the home team, coached by Brazilian Paulo Autuori, fought their way back into the game after the break and Brazil were ultimately grateful for a point.

The draw put Brazil second in the South American World Cup qualifying group with seven points from three games, behind leaders Argentina on goal difference. Peru are fifth with four points.



Cristian Gonzalez of Argentina (centre) battles for the ball with Bolivia's Raul Justiniano (left) and Luis Ribeiro (right) during their match in Buenos Aires.

COLOMBIA0
VENEZUELA1

Unfancied Venezuela beat neighbours Colombia 1-0 in a 2006 World Cup qualifier to leave the hosts without any points from three games in the South American zone.

Mexican-based striker Juan Arango scored after eight minutes to earn Venezuela, the only South American team never to have played at the World Cup, just their second away win in a qualifier.

The defeat could spell the end of Francisco Maturana's fourth stint as Colombia coach.

A disappointing 20,000 crowd applauded Venezuela off the pitch at the end and chanted "Get out, get out, get out."

Maturana was already under fire after Colombia lost their opening two matches at home to Brazil and away to Bolivia.

Venezuela, where baseball is preferred to soccer as the national sport, had also lost their first two games without registering a goal.

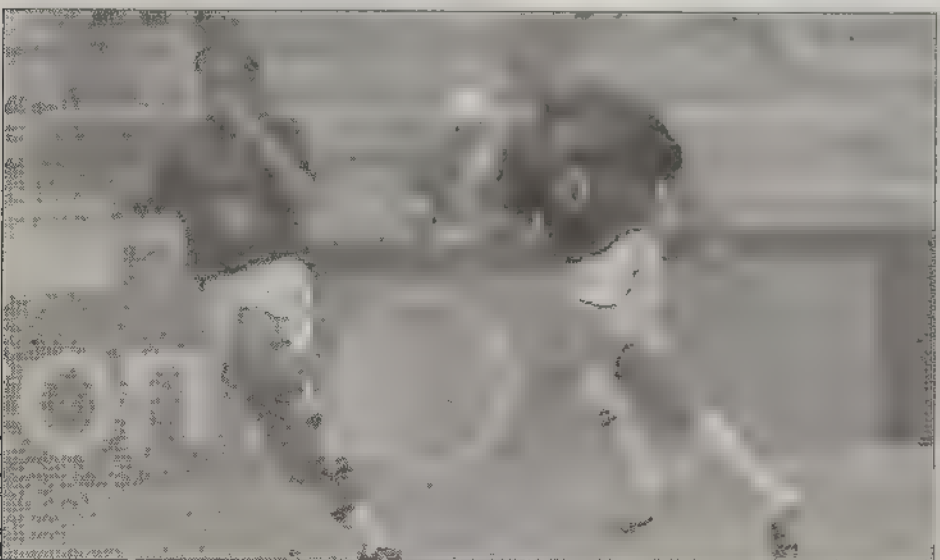
Juan Pablo Angel, who plays for English premier league club Aston Villa, was close to giving Colombia an early breakthrough when he had a free kick tipped over the bar by Gilberto Angelucci.

In the eighth minute, Ricardo Paez - son of Venezuela coach Richard Paez - led a counter-attack which ended with Arango firing a left-foot shot past bewildered goalkeeper Farid Mondragon.

Colombia replied with long periods of desperate attack, penning Venezuela in their own area but failing to cause any real problems.

Angel had the best chance for the hosts two minutes before half-time after a weaving run by Elson Becerra but he failed to connect with the ball.

The second half was a similar story of disorderly attacks by Colombia and desperate defending by their opponents who still looked dangerous on the break.



Venezuela's Juan Arango (left) celebrates after scoring his team's first goal against Colombia.



EURO 2004 - QUALIFIERS



SCOTLAND HOLLAND

Scotland staked their claim to a place at Euro 2004 after they upset the Netherlands 1-0 in the first leg of their playoff at Hampden Park.

Everton winger James McFadden fired Scotland's winner in the 22nd minute to give Berti Vogts's unfancied side a slender advantage going into Thursday's (AEDT) second leg at the Amsterdam Arena.

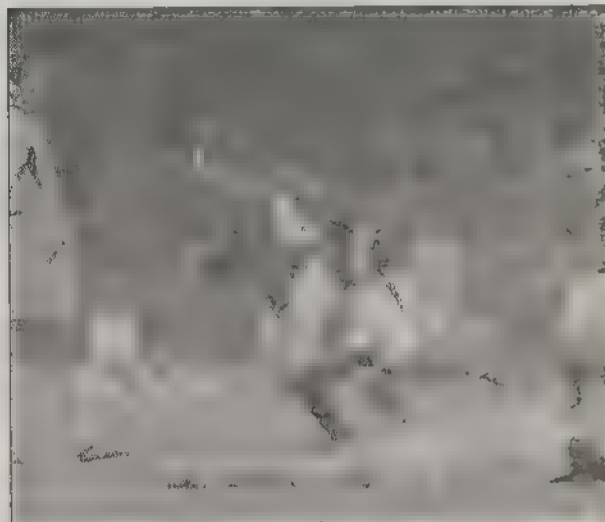
Scotland rode their luck as chances fell to Frank De Boer, Jaap Stam and Clarence Seedorf, but the Dutch strike pairing of

Patrick Kluivert and Ruud van Nistelrooy failed to ignite.

McFadden, 20, smacked home a deflected shot after working a neat one-two with 19-year-old Darren Fletcher, but the Scots had to weather intense Dutch pressure in the closing minutes to hold on to their win.

A late booking for defender Stam means he will be suspended for the second leg while Scotland midfielder Christian Dailly is also out after receiving a booking.

The Dutch always looked physically more imposing but a key feature of Scotland's play



James McFadden (10) of Scotland scores against the Netherlands with what proved to be the winning goal.



Scotland's Gary Naysmith (left) and Holland's Andy Van der Meyde jump for the ball during their Euro 2004 playoff at Hampden Park.

was the ability of their smaller players to unnerve their much-vaunted visitors.

Scotland may be a rated 750-1 outsiders with British bookmakers to win the European championship but never looked so as they tore into the Netherlands with gusto and no little skill.

Inter Milan's Andy van der Meyde was a constant danger but Scotland were also troubling the

Dutch with McFadden and Manchester United teenager Fletcher tormenting the visitors in wide areas.

Scotland's youngsters combined superbly to open the scoring. McFadden played a quick pass to Fletcher, whose back-heeled return was slammed into the net by the ex-Motherwell forward via a deflection off Frank de Boer.

Hampden was awash with Scottish salutes as the home support celebrated but the Dutch could have levelled within minutes as Robert Douglas saved at close range from Stam's header while van der Meyde hammered over.

Scotland continued to live dangerously towards half-time.

Winger Marc Overmars may have won a penalty after tumbling in the box under pressure from Jackie McNamara while a De Boer header was only just cleared. The pressure continued after half-time as van Nistelrooy's header was saved on 46 minutes, while Stam sent an effort just over with Scotland forced to hit on the counter attack.

But the goal would not come for a desperate Dutch-side as Kluivert's cushioned header saw van der Meyde rattle the bar with a volley and the home side clung on.

It was Scotland's first competitive win against the Netherlands since a 3-2 victory at the 1978 World Cup finals.



Holland's Edgar Davids grimaces after being taken down by Scotland's Barry Ferguson.

SPAIN NORWAY

Spain needed a late Henning Berg own goal to clinch a 2-1 win over Norway in an electrifying Euro 2004 playoff first leg.

Inaki Saez's side still have plenty of work to do to reach the finals in Portugal, though, after a spectacular display from Norwegian goalkeeper Espen Johnsen left them with the slimmest of leads to take into the second leg in Oslo on Thursday (AEDT).

Norway took the lead in the 14th minute through Steffen Iversen, the man who scored their winner when the two sides met in

Euro 2000, but Spain hit back with a Raul header seven minutes later.

Spain launched wave after wave of attack over the remainder of the game but were kept at bay until the 85th minute, when substitute Joaquin sent in a low cross from the right and Ruben Baraja slid in a shot that Berg deflected into his own net.

Johnsen then pulled off a quite incredible double save in injury-time to limit the damage to a 2-1 defeat and keep Norway handily placed with the second leg to come on home territory.

Spain struggled to get past



Spain's Jose Antonio Reyes (center) is sandwiched between Norway's Henning Berg (bottom) and Claus Lundekvam.

Norway's defensive wall early on, with only Fernando Torres going close when he flicked the ball wide in the 12th minute after a surging run from deep.

Raul then saw a half-chance cleared by Berg before the home side were hit by a sucker punch from Norway in the 14th minute.

Iversen, who had shocked Spain with his goal in their opening game at the European Championship finals in 2000,

struck right footed from close in after Roar Strand had split the home defence with a header back into the box.

Spain, deflated by a goal that came completely against the run of play, were raised by a raucous 53,000 crowd at the Mestalla stadium and soon hit back.

Jose Antonio Reyes struck a perfect free kick from out wide on the right for Raul to glance a header past Johnsen.

Reyes came tantalisingly close to putting Spain ahead three minutes later when he slid in to meet a cross from Joseba Etxeberria only for Johnsen to make a point-blank save.

Flo then missed two chances to put Norway back in front, first latching on to a loose ball after a mistake from Michel Salgado to fire over and then taking Carlos Marchena's missed clearance and forcing a good save from Iker Casillas.

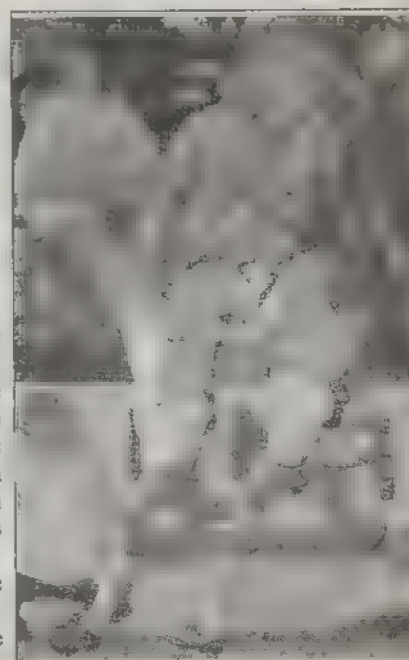
Spain raised their game again and threatened when Ruben Baraja struck a free kick wide, and again just before halftime when David Albelda grazed a post with his shot.

Spain took up where they had left off at the start of the second half, with Baraja going close with another free kick and Carles Puyol forcing a nervy save from Johnsen with his high cross-shot.

Norway were starting to look dangerous again on the break and Iversen flashed a shot across goal after a swift break down the left, Casillas just getting a

hand on his goal-bound effort. Johnsen then pulled off another fine save from Raul on the rebound after a close-range shot from Reyes had been blocked.

Spain were getting increasingly frustrated as the clock ticked down but they finally found a way past Johnsen for a second time, courtesy of Berg's unfortunate intervention, to take a slim reward from a vibrant attacking display.



Norway's Steffen Iversen (left) celebrates with teammate Tore Andr Flo after scoring against Spain in Valencia.



Norway players celebrate after scoring against Spain at the Mestalla Stadium in Valencia.



EURO 2004 - QUALIFIERS



CROATIA	1
SLOVENIA	1

Slovenia produced a superb defensive effort to frustrate Croatia in the first leg of their EURO 2004 qualifying playoff with Ermin Siljak's strike also giving them a crucial away goal ahead of the return tie.

Dado Prso had earlier put the hosts into the lead in the fifth minute when he bundled in from close, but Siljak ensured a keenly contested opening 45 minutes ended level with a headed equaliser midway through the half.

Despite dominating second half possession the Croats could not find a second goal against a stubborn and well disciplined Slovenia backline.

Croatia went into the match with the proud record of having never lost to their neighbouring

country and fierce rivals in six previous meetings.

Their home form in general has always been good and they have lost just one of the last 26 home internationals at the Maksimir stadium in Zagreb.

They started this match determined to continue both records, naming an attack-minded line up with Monaco striker Prso playing just behind Ivica Momar and Ivica Olic.

Nevertheless it was Slovenia who had the first opportunity when Zlatko Zahovic raced down the right and whipped in a low cross which home keeper Mladen Dabanovic did well to cut out.

A minute later Croatia took the lead as Prso continued his rich goalscoring form.

The powerful forward scored four goals for his club against

Deportivo La Coruna in the UEFA Champions League earlier this month, and had the simplest of task in opening the scoring here.

Niko Kovac bent over an outswinging free-kick which Momar rose highest to meet. He headed the ball back across the goal where Prso was waiting unmarked to put his side ahead from barely two yards.

Amir Karic tried to drag Slovenia back on level terms soon after with a penetrating run through the heart of the home defence, but he delayed his shot just enough for a Croatia defender to get a block in.

Croatia continued to do most of the pressing, but were caught out in the 22nd minute when Siljak headed the visitors level.

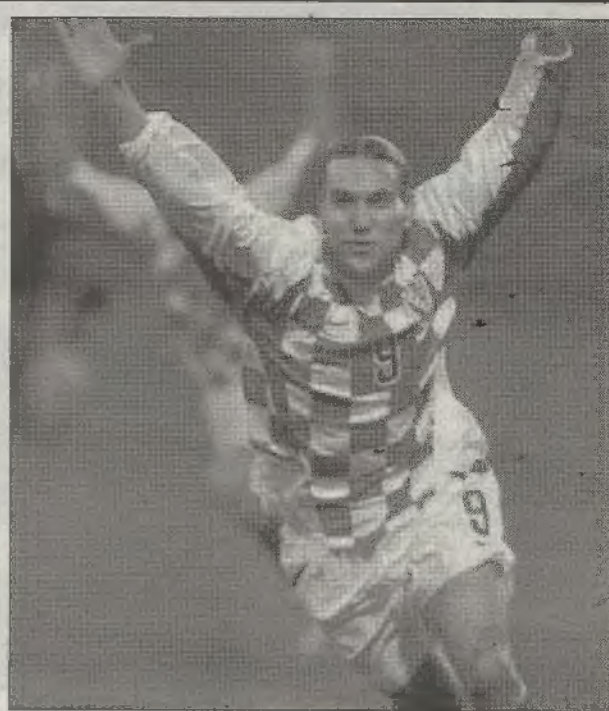
A deep free-kick hit towards the far post caught the Croatia defence half asleep, leaving Siljak a free header from six yards which he finished with aplomb.

Dabanovic kept the scores level with a stunning save 10 minutes before the break, somehow clawing over Prso's header from a pacy Momar cross.

Croatia coach Otto Baric brought on attacking midfielder Giovanni Rosso and striker Milan Rapaic on for Jerko Leko and Olic at the break, but the change had little immediate effect as Slovenia continued to look comfortable. Kovac worked a shooting opportunity in the 66th minute, but his powerful drive was blocked by a line of Slovenian defenders.

On of them, Fabijan Cipot, then made a desperate last-ditch interception to deny Croatia a chance when Rosso's attempted through ball looked to have finally carved the defence open.

Kovac tried again from distance as the match entered the last 10 minutes, but once again the effort was blocked by a resilient defence.



Croatian striker Dado Prso raises his hands in jubilation after scoring against Slovenia.

RUSSIA	0
WALES	0

Wales gave themselves a great chance of reaching their first major finals since the 1958 World Cup when they held a nervous-looking Russia to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their Euro 2004 playoff.

The Russians dominated for much of the game, played on a cold Moscow night at Lokomotiv stadium, but could not break down a well organised Welsh defence.

Porto winger Dmitry Alenichev created the first chance for the home side after five minutes when he found Dmitry Sennikov in the box.

Russia's top striker Dmitry Bulyn had a good look at the goal but missed with a low shot from 12 metres five minutes later.

Wales's first real threat came in

the 12th minute when a Jason Koumas free kick found John Hartson unmarked inside the box but Russia skipper Viktor Onopko was able to clear.

The visitors were largely content to stay back and play for a draw before the second leg in Cardiff next Thursday (AEDT).

A Russian appeal for a penalty was turned down by Portuguese referee Lucilio Batista in the 33rd minute when Dmitry Sychev went down after a sliding tackle by Danny Gabbidon.

Moments later, Alexei Smertin sent a crisp volley from the edge of the box but Wales keeper Paul Jones made a fine save.

There were several heated exchanges between the opposing players in the second half.

Russia keeper Sergei Ovchinnikov and playmaker



Wales' Leon Gabbidon (right) and Russia's Dmitry Bulyn tussle for the ball during their Euro 2004 playoff at the Lokomotiv Stadium.

Alexander Mostovoi will both miss the Cardiff match after picking up their second bookings of the qualifying competition.

With time running out, the home side pressed hard for a goal.

Russia's substitute Marat Izmailov had the last chance late in stoppage time reaching out to a shot from close range but Jones was equal to the task once again.

"I was very pleased with the performance of my team," Wales manager Mark Hughes said afterwards.

"We're in a good position now but it's only halftime and

Russia will be very dangerous (in the second leg)," he added.

Without an away goal to Wales's credit a scoring draw in Cardiff would be enough for Russia to qualify on the away goals rule.

Although, the Russians kept their unbeaten record intact under Georgy Yartsev, the new manager was not pleased with the result. "I'm disappointed with the outcome," said Yartsev, who took over from Valery Gazzayev in late August.

"I must admit that Wales surprised us with their discipline and patience. Both Ovchinnikov and Mostovoi will be tough to replace. It's a big loss for our team."

Before the match, some 400 Russian supporters clashed with Welsh fans outside Rossiya hotel near the Kremlin. Police arrested 10 Russian hooligans, who had started the trouble.

LATVIA	1
TURKEY	0

Latvia recorded the most significant victory of their footballing history after defeating Turkey 1-0 in the first leg of their EURO 2004 playoff in Riga.

Maris Verpakovskis scored the only goal in freezing conditions to ensure his side take a slender lead to Istanbul and keep their hopes of reaching a first major championship alive. A further boost to Latvian hopes came with the sending off of Turkey defender Emre Asik and yellow cards for Rustu Recber and Fatih Aykel, which will mean all three miss Thursday's (AEDT) return leg.

Latvia coach Aleksandrs Starkovs opted for Ventpils defender Igor Kobalovs after being forced into changes at the back by the suspensions of Mihails Zemlinskis and Dzintars

Sirnis. His opposite number Senol Gunes left out Hakan Sukur in favour of a strike partnership of Ihan Mansiz and Nihat Kahveci.

Latvia made the brighter start, with Andrejs Rubins forcing a rushed clearance from Turkish goalkeeper Rustu in the opening seconds. On seven minutes, Rustu was again called into action after Vit Rimkus set up Verpakovskis for a fierce shot. Although the Barcelona man made the save, the power of the drive nearly sent the ball over the line before a last-ditch clearance.

Despite the strength of their opponents, Latvia were in a confident mood and were looking the more likely to break the deadlock. The Latvian breakthrough finally came on 29 minutes when Verpakovskis struck his fourth goal in three internationals. He

latched on to a long pass, turned brilliantly inside Emre Asik and applied a great finish to send the ball beyond Rustu and into the net.

The goal sent the Skonto stadium in Riga wild, with the Turkish side struggling to find their form in freezing conditions. Meanwhile, Latvia looked likely to score a second with Rubins going close on a counterattack while Verpakovskis's first touch let him down after good work by Valentins Lobanovs, who will also miss the return after picking up a yellow card.

There was another scare for Turkey as Fatih Aykel's backpass nearly eluded Rustu in the dying seconds of the first half but the visitors survived. They then had their first real chance of the match but Kolinko comfortably saved Tugay's low shot.

It was a similar story in the opening stages of the second half but Turkey slowly began to create

more openings. On 54 minutes, Emre Asik had a chance to equalise from four metres after a corner but his shot was deflected wide.

However, Turkey's fortunes were to take a turn for the worse when Emre Asik was shown a red card for elbowing Rimkus.

The sending off had a major impact on Turkish hopes, with Latvia content to hit their visitors on the counterattack.



Latvia's Aleksanders Isakovs (right) challenges for the ball with Turkey's Nihat Kahveci during their EURO 2004 playoff in Riga.

International Friendly Matches

POLAND	3
ITALY	1

Poland upset Italy 3-1 and in the process ended Italy's 10-match unbeaten run in a scrappy but entertaining friendly played in sub-zero temperatures.

Poland upset Italy 3-1 Wednesday night in an exhibition game as Jacek Krzynowek scored one goal and set up another.

Jacek Bak gave Poland the lead in the fifth minute, taking a pass from Mariusz Kucielka and shooting the ball into the net above the hands of goalkeeper Francesco Toldo.

Tomasz Klos scored in the 17th minute off Jacek Krzynowek's free kick. Antonio Cassano, making his international debut, pulled Italy to 2-1 one minute later when he beat goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek, who came

off his line.

Italy pressed for an equaliser in the second-half but got caught out by a lightning counter-attack finished emphatically by Jacek Krzynowek five minutes from time.



Italy's players observe a minute of silence prior the start of their friendly against Poland in Warsaw.

The match, played to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the election of Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla as Pope, began with a minute's silence in memory of the 18 Italians killed by a truck bomb attack in southern Iraq earlier today. Poland's victory was only the third time they have beaten the Azzurri in 13 meetings.

GERMANY	0
FRANCE	3

Thierry Henry and David Trezeguet ripped Germany to shreds as European champions France beat the previous holders of that crown 0-3 in some style in a friendly at the Aufschalke Arena.

Henry scored his side's opener and then set the second up on a plate for Trezeguet in two lethal counter-attacks.

The third, a magnificent

sweeping move also involving Henry, ended with Trezeguet bagging his second of the night in a scoreline that by no means flattered the visitors.

Germany, runners-up in last year's World Cup, were always chasing shadows against a France team that looks under Jacques Santini to have recovered the world-beating form that briefly deserted them in their disastrous defence of their 1998 world title in Korea.

The first chance of the match fell to Henry who totally mis-cued his shot after Trezeguet headed the ball down to him from a Zinedine Zidane pass - that was but a taste of what was to come.

At the other end Germany almost got their noses in front when Kevin Kuranyi's shot came back off the woodwork after he had done well to elude the challenge of Lilian Thuram.

It was an exciting opening and after 13 minutes Fredi Bobic threaded the ball through to Bernd Schneider whose shot narrowly missed the target.

However, with 20 minutes on the clock France took the lead with a well-worked goal.

Robert Pires fed the overlapping Bixente Lizarazu who crossed deep and Germany goalkeeper Oliver Kahn could only paw Henry's header into the net.

Rudi Voller's side hit back immediately and first Gregory Coupet turned a shot from Jens Jeremies behind for a corner before the goalkeeper then tipped a Frank Baumann header onto the bar for another corner.

The second period started slowly and first Lizarazu and then Kuranyi tried their luck with speculative shots.

However, in the 55th minute France moved 2-0 ahead with a lightning quick counter-attack.

Mikael Silvestre played a long ball out of defence towards Henry who eluded the challenge of Christian Worns to bear down on goal with Trezeguet in support.

Henry drew Kahn and covering defender Baumann before slipping the ball to Trezeguet who had the simple task of sliding in the second.

With nine minutes left France produced a marvellous goal as substitute William Gallas found Henry with a long ball.

Henry immediately transferred the ball to Zidane who played in Trezeguet who dispatched the ball past Kahn to make it 3-0.



France's Olivier Dacourt (left) David Trezeguet (center) and Thierry Henry celebrate after scoring during a friendly against Germany.

ENGLAND	2
DENMARK	3

Substitute Jon-Dahl Tomasson fired Denmark to a late 3-2 victory over England in a pulsating international friendly at Old Trafford.

In a frantic opening nine minutes, teenager Wayne Rooney put England in front, Martin Jorgensen levelled for Denmark and Joe Cole restored the hosts' lead before Jorgensen equalised for a second time in the 30th

minute from the penalty spot.

An inspired Rooney hit the post in the second half before leaving to a standing ovation, but his team mates were denied a draw by Tomasson's well-taken strike in the 82nd minute.

England, who like the Danes have already qualified for Euro 2004 in Portugal, will not lose any sleep over the defeat, though some of their defenders will not

have improved their chances of playing in next year's tournament. Denmark, well-organised and oozing attacking flair, continued their excellent form from qualifying and picked up a useful boost to team morale.

England beat the Danes 3-0 in the second round of last year's World Cup, but fielded an experimental side as striker Michael Owen, midfielders Steven Gerrard and Paul Scholes and defenders Sol Campbell and Rio Ferdinand were all unavailable.

The omens may not have been

CZECH REPUBLIC	5
CANADA	1

Karel Poborsky celebrated his record-equalling 90th appearance for the Czech Republic with a goal in a 5-1 drubbing of Canada.

Having qualified for Euro 2004 in Portugal, Czech coach Karel Bruckner gave match experience to many on his bench.

Borussia Dortmund striker Jan Koller proved a handful for the Canadian backline, creating several good chances before being fouled in the penalty area in the 26th minute. Udinese midfielder Marek Jankulovski shot home just under the crossbar.

Marek Heinz made it 2-0 in the 49th minute before Poborsky scored his seventh international goal in the 55th minute.

He then gave way to substitute Libor Sionko, who quickly put his mark on the match with a goal in the 63rd minute.

Rudolf Skacek made it 5-0 in the 82nd minute with his first

international goal before Everton's Tomasz Radzinski grabbed a late consolation, slipping between two defenders then slotting the ball just inside the post.



Stepan Vachousek of Czech Republic (left) and Canada's Jason DeVos vie for the ball during their friendly in Teplice.

PORTUGAL	1
GREECE	1

Pauleta's equaliser earned Portugal a 1-1 friendly draw against fellow EURO 2004 finalists Greece in Aveiro.

The Paris-Saint Germain forward struck a fierce shot in the 60th minute to cancel out Vassilios Lakis's goal two minutes after half-time. The Greeks had played for an hour with only ten men after Giorgos Karagounis's dismissal, which led to a penalty miss by Luis Figo.

Portugal, who as hosts did not need to qualify for next summer's finals, had the better of the play but failed to convert a host of chances against the Greeks, who finished top of qualifying Group six ahead of Portugal's rivals Spain.

It was a night of celebration with the match being used to mark the opening of the new of Aveiro Municipal stadium, one of the host venues for the championship.

Lakis had put the Greeks in front after a fine move. Stylianos Venetidis broke away on the

counterattack and crossed for Lakis to score at the far post with his head. It was a rare attack for the visitors who had goalkeeper Antonios Nikopolidis in fine form, most notably when performing a terrific double save to deny Figo from the spot in the first half.

Karagounis had conceded the

penalty by handling a headed effort from Jorge Andrade.

Pauleta came closest to a winner three minutes after he had restored parity. The forward fired in a fierce shot that cannoned against both posts but failed to find its way into the net.

However, if it was not the woodwork denying the home side it was Nikopolidis, with the shot-stopper a constant source of frustration.



Greece's Antonios Nikolaidis (left) fights for the ball with Portugal's Fernando Couto.

onrushing Cole and Chelsea's playmaker tucked a well-placed shot past Thomas Sorensen.

But there was a high price to pay for England's next defensive error when defender Matthew Upson tripped Jorgensen and the Danish forward gave David James no chance from the spot.

England skipper David Beckham, back at Old Trafford after leaving Manchester United for Real Madrid, was foiled with a trademark free kick shortly before the break.

As expected, England manager

Sven-Goran Eriksson made a rash of substitutions at the break, though the changes did nothing to stop the two sides trading chances in front of goal.

Substitute keeper Paul Robinson was kept busy as the Danes marauded through England's defence but his luck ran out with eight minutes to go when he failed to hold a ferocious drive from distance and Tomasson snapped up the loose ball.



WORLD TABLES

French Ligue I



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Monaco	13	9	3	1	25	12	30
2 Lyon	13	8	3	2	27	9	27
3 Marseille	13	8	0	5	20	14	24
4 PSG	13	7	2	4	17	11	23
5 Lens	13	7	1	5	12	17	22
6 Sochaux	13	6	3	4	17	13	21
7 Auxerre	13	6	2	5	21	13	20
8 Nice	13	5	5	3	12	12	20
9 Strasbourg	13	5	4	4	18	15	19
10 Nantes	13	6	1	6	13	12	19
11 Montpellier	13	5	3	5	19	17	18
12 Bastia	13	5	3	5	16	18	18
13 Bordeaux	13	4	4	5	10	11	16
14 Rennes	13	3	6	4	11	11	15
15 Metz	13	4	2	7	11	13	14
16 Lille	13	3	5	5	13	17	14
17 Ajaccio	13	3	4	6	11	16	13
18 Guingamp	13	3	2	8	11	21	11
19 Toulouse	13	2	3	8	8	22	9
20 Mans	13	1	4	8	7	25	7

German Bundesliga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Stuttgart	12	9	3	0	19	2	30
2 Leverkusen	12	9	2	1	26	8	29
3 Bremen	12	9	1	2	34	16	28
4 Bayern	12	7	3	2	29	16	24
5 Dortmund	12	7	1	4	23	17	22
6 Bochum	12	6	3	3	24	13	21
7 Wolfsburg	12	6	0	6	25	23	18
8 1860 München	12	5	2	5	13	16	17
9 Freiburg	12	4	3	5	18	22	15
10 Hannover	12	4	3	5	21	28	15
11 Schalke	12	3	5	4	15	19	14
12 Hamburg	12	3	3	6	14	25	12
13 Kaiserslautern	12	4	2	6	13	20	11
14 Hertha	12	2	5	5	10	21	11
15 Hansa	12	2	3	7	16	21	9
16 Eintracht	12	2	2	8	9	19	8
17 M'gladbach	12	1	4	7	8	18	7
18 Köln	12	2	1	9	9	22	7

Spanish Primera Liga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Deportivo	11	8	1	2	21	9	25
2 Valencia	11	7	2	2	22	7	23
3 Real Madrid	11	7	2	2	24	13	23
4 Barcelona	11	5	4	2	16	11	19
5 Atlético	11	6	1	4	14	13	19
6 Osasuna	11	5	3	3	13	9	18
7 Racing	11	5	2	4	15	12	17
8 Athletic	11	5	2	4	13	12	17
9 Málaga	11	5	1	5	13	14	16
10 Valladolid	11	4	3	4	15	19	15
11 Sevilla	11	3	6	2	16	14	15
12 Villarreal	11	3	5	3	11	12	14
13 Betis	11	3	4	4	14	15	13
14 Real Sociedad	11	3	4	4	13	16	13
15 Zaragoza	11	3	3	5	9	11	12
16 Celta	11	2	5	4	14	15	11
17 Mallorca	11	3	2	6	13	21	11
18 Albacete	11	3	0	8	10	16	9
19 Murcia	11	1	4	6	8	20	7
20 Espanyol	11	1	2	8	8	23	5

Italian Serie A



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Juventus	9	7	2	0	23	9	23
2 Roma	9	6	3	0	18	3	21
3 Milan	9	6	3	0	16	4	21
4 Parma	9	5	3	1	16	9	18
5 Inter Milan	9	4	4	1	11	5	16
6 Lazio	9	5	1	3	15	12	16
7 Chievo	9	4	2	3	12	10	14
8 Modena	9	4	2	3	10	8	14
9 Sampdoria	9	3	3	3	9	10	12
10 Udinese	9	3	2	4	12	13	11
11 Siena	9	2	4	3	11	9	10
12 Reggina	9	1	6	2	10	13	9
13 Brescia	9	1	4	4	14	20	7
14 Lecce	9	2	1	6	11	21	7
15 Bologna	9	1	3	5	9	13	6
16 Perugia	9	0	6	3	11	18	6
17 Ancona	9	0	3	6	4	18	3
18 Empoli	9	0	2	7	5	22	2

English Premier League



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	12	9	3	0	25	10	30
Chelsea	12	9	2	1	26	9	29
Man Utd	12	9	1	2	23	7	28
Charlton	12	6	3	3	19	15	21
Birmingham	12	5	5	2	11	8	20
Man City	12	5	3	4	22	15	18
Fulham	12	5	3	4	22	18	18
Liverpool	12	5	2	5	18	14	17
Southampton	12	4	5	3	10	7	17
Newcastle	12	4	4	4	16	18	16
Portsmouth	12	4	3	5	17	16	15
Middlesbrough	12	4	2	6	11	15	14
Tottenham	12	3	3	6	11	16	12
Bolton	12	2	6	4	9	19	12
Leicester	12	3	2	7	19	21	11
Aston Villa	12	2	5	5	9	15	11
Everton	11	2	4	5	12	15	10
Wolverhampton	12	2	4	6	8	24	10
Blackburn	11	2	2	7	15	21	8
Leeds	12	2	2	8	11	31	8

Greek First Division



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Olympiacos	10	8	1	1	25	6	25
2 Panathinaikos	10	7	2	1	17	6	23
3 PAOK	10	6	2	2	16	9	20
4 Egaleo	10	6	2	2	11	5	20
5 AEK	10	5	3	2	23	13	18
6 Panionios	10	3	6	1	12	11	15
7 OFI	10	4	2	4	11	18	14
8 Halkidona	10	3	5	2	12	12	14
9 Iraklis	10	2	4	4	11	12	10
10 Paniliakos	10	2	4	4	14	15	10
11 Aris	10	2	3	5	9	13	9
12 Xanthi	10	2	3	5	10	14	9
13 Kallithea	10	1	5	4	15	17	8
14 Proodeftiki	10	1	5	4	6	13	8
15 Akrotiris	10	1	3	6	9	26	6
16 Ionikos	10	1	2	7	8	19	5

Scottish Premier League



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Celtic	12	11	1	0	38	3	34
2 Rangers	12	9	2	1	33	11	29
3 Hearts	12	7	2	3	19	15	23
4 Motherwell	11	5	3	3	14	12	18
5 Dundee	12	4	4	4	14	13	16
6 Livingston	12	4	4	4	13	13	16
7 Hibernian	12	4	4	4	14	17	16
8 Dunfermline	11	4	3	4	10	15	15
9 Kilmarnock	12	3	2	7	14	28	11
10 Dundee United	12	2	4	6	9	21	10
11 Aberdeen	12	2	1	9	9	24	7
12 Partick	12	0	2	10	9	24	2

Dutch Eredivisie



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Ajax	11	9	1	1	33	13	28
2 Alkmaar	11	8	1	2	24	9	25
3 PSV	11	7	3	1	27	10	24
4 Feyenoord	11	6	3	2	21	14	21
5 Roda	11	4	5	2	17	11	17
6 Roosendaal	11	4	4	3	11	11	16
7 Heerenveen	11	5	1	5	11	12	16
8 Groningen	11	4	3	4	16	19	15
9 Utrecht	11	4	3	4	12	15	15
10 Willem II	11	4	3	4	14	21	15
11 Waalwijk	11	4	1	6	15	16	13
12 Twente	11	4	1	6	19	23	13
13 NEC	11	4	0	7	13	20	12
14 NAC	11	3	2	6	15	16	11
15 Volendam	11	2	4	5	15	22	10
16 Den Haag	11	2	3	6	10	23	9
17 Vitesse	11	1	5	5	17	22	8
18 Zwolle	11	1	3	7	6	19	6

Belgian Eesteklasse



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Anderlecht	12	10	1	1	33	10	31
2 Standard	12	8	1	3	24	10	25
3 Genk	12	7	3	2	25	15	24
4 Club Brugge	12	6	3	3	24	14	21
5 Mouscron	12	5	5	2	20	12	20
6 Sint-Truiden	12	5	4	3	18	16	19
7 Westerlo	12	5	4	3	17	18	19
8 La Louvière	12	4	6	2	19	13	18
9 AA Gent	12	3	7	2	14	12	16
10 Cercle Brugge	12	3	6	3	10	14	15
11 Lierse	12	3	5	4	14	16	14
12 G Beerschot	12	3	4	5	9	14	13
13 Beveren	12	4	0	8	13	25	12
14 Antwerp	12	3	2	7	10	25	11
15 Lokeren	12	2	3	7	14	23	9
16 Mons	12	1	6	5	10	19	9
17 Heusden	12	2	2	8	9	20	8
18 Charleroi	12	1	4	7	5	12	7

Arsenal 2003



Back Row

(L-R) Jens Lehmann, Edu, Gilberto Silva, Sol Campbell, Bisan Lauren, Kolo Toure.

Front Row

(L-R) Ashley Cole, Sylvain Wiltord, Freddie Ljungberg, Thierry Henry, Robert Pires.

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY